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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1989

JAMADI AL AWWAL 26, 1409 AH

24 PAGES 150 FILLS

Khomeini sends his envoy to Gorbachev

MOSCOW, Jan 3. (Reuters): A personal envoy from Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini arrived in Moscow today, apparently carrying a message for Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The official Soviet news agency Tass said Ayatollah Abdullah Javadi Amoli, Khomeini's personal representative, had been met at the airport by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev and other officials.

It gave no details about his programme in the Soviet capital. Earlier, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Amoli was carrying a message for Gorbachev but did not reveal its contents.

Khomeini has frequently attacked the Soviet Union and other officials.

(Continued on Page 2)

KIO will make a profit of \$700 million

Kuwait reduces its stake in BP

THE Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), Kuwait's London-based overseas investment arm, has struck a deal with the oil giant British Petroleum to reduce its stake in the BP to 9.9 per cent, informed sources told the Arab Times yesterday.

Sources said, KIO has reached an agreement to sell 790 million shares to BP itself at a price of £3.05 per share plus dividends to be distributed on March 31. But KIO will receive £2.12 net per share, the sources said.

The details of the agreed share price are as follows: the BP will pay £3.05 per share in addition to £0.12 as dividends per share. From this, an amount of £1.05 per share will be deducted as the last instalment for the shares.

which is also due on March 1, 1989.

Thus the net price of each share will be £2.12.

The KIO will make a profit of about £374.34 million (about \$700 million) from the deal.

The deal would reduce Kuwait's holding in BP from 21.6 per cent to 9.9 per cent, the maximum fixed by the British government last October.

Subject to BP shareholder approval, the transaction will be complete by March 31.

Slash

Britain had ordered the KIO to slash its stake in Britain's largest firm to 9.9 per cent within a year after the state watchdog Monopolies and Mergers Commission said the size of the shareholding posed a threat to British interests.

Kuwait, a major oil producer and member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), built up its 21.6 per cent stake cheaply when the public sell-off of a British government holding in BP flopped after the October 1987 world stock markets crash.

Kuwait had asked for five years to cut its BP holding.

Cost

British Trade and Industry Secretary Lord Young extended the one-year deadline for divestment to three years to take account of prevailing market conditions.

Reuter adds: although the KIO was making a hefty profit by selling part of its controversial BP stake, oil analysts in London said BP felt it had scored a political victory by buying back

its shares from the powerful OPEC state.

"KIO must be delighted. But BP believes they needed to get rid of KIO's big stake, even at such a cost," said Simon Irwin of Kleinwort Greaves Securities.

Jeremy Elden of Phillips and Drew said the buy-back would not enhance earnings per share or dividends for BP stockholders. But he added: "It's a good deal for BP—they can afford it."

BP chairman Sir Peter Walters told a news conference in London he had been unhappy with the prospect of a "serious overhang" of shares in the market, and the new deal would be good for shareholders and BP stock prices.

"To let this situation continue for a period of up to three years is not in the interests of the company or its shareholders."



HM the Amir received Howe yesterday.

Britain can play leading role in Mideast peace efforts: Howe

By Fathima Ahmed

BRITAIN is now in a position to play a leading role in finding a solution to the Middle East conflict, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said in Kuwait yesterday.

He also reiterated Britain's willingness to help meet Kuwait's defence needs.

Addressing a news conference at the end of his two-day visit to Kuwait, Howe called on Israel to show moderation and match PLO's peace overtures.

Howe said: "Britain welcomed the recent statements by the Palestinian leadership. We must now look to the new government of Israel to make matching response."

Britain's junior Foreign Minister William Waldegrave will visit Kuwait next week and "hopefully he will have the opportunity to meet with PLO leaders," said Howe.

Contact

Waldegrave last month met PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's media advisor, in London. It was the first high-level contact between Britain and the PLO.

Howe said: "Britain has played and will go on playing a consistent and tenacious part in addressing basically the same message to both sides—that they have got to come to discuss the matter between them."

"It is important for the Palestinian leadership, having taken the steps they have, to recognise the need to go on building up Israeli confidence that will help us strengthen the message we want to get home in Israel about the urgent need for them (Israel) to respond positively to the opportunity which is now open."

Howe said: "We will certainly go on urging that message on the Prime Minister of Israel Mr (Yitzhak) Shamir. We will certainly be looking at every opportunity to encourage the Palestinian leadership to maintain their commitment to moderation."

Howe, speaking to BBC yesterday in what seemed like a warning to Israel, said: "Time is not on the side of those who think they can stay away from the negotiating table."

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Arafat to visit Oman for the first time

ABU DHABI, Jan 3. (Agencies): PLO chairman Yasser Arafat will travel to Oman later this month in his first visit to the sultanate, the state-run Omani News Agency reported today.

The agency, monitored in Abu Dhabi, said Arafat would hold talks with Sultan Qaboos on recent initiatives aimed at establishing a Palestinian homeland in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The report said Arafat would travel to Oman later in the month but did not specify the date for the visit.

Unlike other members in the 21-nation Arab League, Oman has not allowed the PLO to establish a diplomatic office. The sultanate in the past had accused radical Palestinian factions of taking part in a failed Marxist rebellion in the early 1970s.

Relations between Oman and the PLO improved following a visit earlier this month by Hayel Abdel Hamid, a member of the group's executive committee.

Oman also joined Arab and Muslim countries in recognising the declaration of an independent Palestinian state, proclaimed by Arafat in November following a meeting of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's parliament-in-exile.

In a separate development, Bahrain said today it would upgrade the PLO's office to an embassy.

Dolphins save surfer

SYDNEY, Jan 3. (Reuters): Dolphins saved the life of an Australian teen-age surfer today by chasing off a shark attacking him.

The shark took a large chunk out of the unnamed 17-year-old's surfboard in its first attack off Ballina on the New South Wales coast before severely tearing his abdomen, an ambulance service spokesman told journalists.

After the second attack a group of dolphins chased the shark away, the youth said later. He managed to swim ashore and is in satisfactory condition in hospital, the spokesman said.

Minister dismissed

BAGHDAD, Jan 3. (Reuters): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein today dismissed his Labour and Social Affairs Minister, Babak Mahmoud Rassoul, Baghdad television reported.

It said a presidential decree appointed Umeed Madhat Mubarak, a presidential adviser, as the new minister.

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اندرے قاتلوں کے خلاف

○ ساتھی شہر کابل سے
○ واپس چلے گئے
○ افغان مجاہدین نے مجلس
○ شوریٰ بنانے کا اعلان کر دیا
○ برطانیہ کی کیت کی دفاعی
○ ضروریات پوری کرنے میں مدد
○ دے گا جینوری ہاؤس
○ اندرا کے قاتلوں کی اپیل
○ عدالتوں نے بھی مسترد کر دی
○ پاکستان میں انٹیکریشن
○ کشمیر قائم کیا جائے گا

WEATHER

COLD weather with moderate north-westerly wind which will be freshening at times and some clouds will appear.
State of sea: moderate to rough
High water: 10.30 am, 8.00 pm
Low water: 3.30 am, 2.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.41 am
Sunset: 5.02 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 16°C 61°F
Ahmad: 15°C 59°F
Fahaka: 14°C 57°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 8°C 46°F
Ahmad: 12°C 54°F
Fahaka: 11°C 52°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 17°C 63°F
Ahmad: 12°C 54°F
Fahaka: 12°C 54°F
Minimum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 95 per cent
Ahmad: 86 per cent
Fahaka: 95 per cent

Indira killers' appeals rejected

NEW DELHI, Jan 3. (Reuters): Lawyers for the convicted killers of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi made desperate eleventh-hour attempts today to save their clients from the gallows.

But courts rejected their petitions in the space of a few hours and the executions looked imminent.

Just after President Ramaswamy Venkataraman turned down a mercy plea yesterday, "black warrants" for the execution of Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh were delivered to the warden of Delhi's Tihar jail.

No date has been announced for the hanging but an Indian news agency quoted unnamed official sources as saying they would be carried out in less than a week.

Revenge

Satwant Singh, 24, was one of two Sikh bodyguards who gunned down Indira at her New Delhi home on 31 Oct 1984.

The second assassin, Beant Singh, was shot dead seconds after the attack.

Kehar Singh, 54, Beant's uncle, was convicted of planning the assassination in revenge for Indira's ordering the Army to flush out Sikh extremists from the Golden Temple of Amritsar, in June 1984.

More than 1,200 people died in the Army action and some 4,000 Sikhs were slaughtered in riots across north India after Indira's murder.

The Supreme Court today rejected a petition by Kehar Singh's lawyer for commutation of the sentence on the grounds that the five months he has been on death row constituted "undue."

(Continued on Page 2)

Interest rate hike has positive effects

By M.C. Bose

LOCAL commercial banks have begun receiving more deposits and funds after the announcement of new interest rates three weeks ago, the governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait said yesterday.

Addressing a news conference, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah said the outflow of capital has dropped.

He added that the Central Bank is observing the effects of new interest rate structures and prompt measures will be taken if adverse effects are detected. He said that the new structure will have positive results on investments in the local market.

Sheikh Salem strongly defended the hike in interest rates in Kuwait, by saying that the local economy is not isolated from the

world economy in respect to high international interest rates.

He added Kuwait's economy is a free one and there are no restrictions on foreign transactions. This feature, he said, adds strength to existing ties between Kuwait and international economy, making it absolutely difficult to isolate local economy from outside influences and developments in the stock markets.

The official added that in some cases local businesses may face problems due to developments in foreign markets.

Promote

He added that the Central Bank, in a bid to promote and boost local economy, ordered a new structure of interest rates in March 1987, when the rates were reduced from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent. At that time the local

economy did not feel any pressure as international rates were low enabling Kuwait to work with reduced rates too.

Sheikh Salem pointed out that since the beginning of 1988 international rates began rising. The rates soared during the second half of the year putting pressure on the interest rates of Kuwaiti dinar.

Increased

Interest rates of the US dollar, increased from about 7.3 per cent at the end of April last year to 9.4 per cent by the end of December. Further, lending interest rates in the US increased from 8.5 per cent in February, to 10.5 per cent in November. The sterling pound's average interest rates increased from eight per cent in April to 13.25 per cent in December.

(Continued on Page 20)

US, PLO officials discuss Pan Am jumbo bombing

LOS ANGELES, Jan 3. (Agencies): Amid signs of stepped-up diplomatic contact, the White House disclosed yesterday that officials of the United States and the PLO met during the weekend to discuss issues that included the bombing of Pan American Flight 103.

White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk said Robert Pelletreau, the US Ambassador to Tunisia, who opened a formal dialogue with the PLO on Dec 16, met on Saturday at the US embassy in Tunis with Hakim Balaawi, the PLO representative to Tunisia and the Arab League.

The disclosure coincided with a flurry down those responsible for the Dec 21 bomb blast that brought down Pan American Flight 103 over Scotland and of unexpected plans for a resumption of formal talks between the United States and the PLO before the Jan 20 inauguration of President-elect George Bush.

Requested

However, Popadiuk characterised the weekend meeting in Tunis as "informal," and said it was requested by Balaawi "for the purpose of introducing the latter to the ambassador."

"Discussion centred on Middle Eastern issues," Popadiuk said. "Since the meeting was called by Mr Balaawi, the ambassador was principally in the listening mode."

At the same time, he noted that Pelletreau "took the opportunity to mention that the US would welcome any information the PLO is able to develop concerning the Pan Am tragedy."

"This is in line with what we have already publicly stated," Popadiuk said, "and is true for the PLO as well as anyone else who may have information on the bombing."

An administration official emphasised that Pelletreau made

no direct request for PLO assistance in tracking down those responsible for the bombing, which President Reagan and others have classified as a suspected act of terrorism.

The official said Balaawi, who was not among the PLO officials who met with Pelletreau on Dec 16, "took note of the ambassador's view and said he would pass it on" to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

Insisted

The administration official who discussed the weekend session with reporters insisted several times that it was an introductory meeting sought by Balaawi "and it shouldn't be regarded as part of the formal dialogue" that Reagan authorised with the PLO on Dec 13 after Arafat met conditions long set by the United States for formal contact.

Disclosure of the meeting came, however, as a newspaper in the UAE quoted a PLO official as saying a second round of formal discussions between US and PLO officials will take place on Saturday.

Without ruling out additional talks before Reagan leaves office on Jan 20, Popadiuk would say only "there are currently no plans for such a meeting."

Popadiuk said President Reagan was aware of the meeting between Pelletreau and Balaawi in Tunis.

Claim

A man claiming to be an Arab has told Hungarian officials that a pro-Iranian Shiite organisation blew up Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland, the official MTI news agency said in Budapest today.

The caller, who spoke English, also warned Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) through the Hungarian Interior Ministry of a possible attack on one of its

(Continued on Page 2)

Israeli legislators to meet PLO members

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 3. (Agencies): Four members of Israel's parliament will next week attend a European symposium on Middle East peace alongside PLO representatives despite Israel's ban on meetings with PLO members, one of the parliamentarians said today.

The conference, entitled "A European initiative for peace in the Middle East," was initiated by several members of the European Parliament. It will be held in Paris on Jan 12-13.

Two of the Parliament members who plan to attend, Lova Eliav and Ora Namir, belong to the dovish wing of the Labour Party. The two others are Yair Tsaaban, leader of the Socialist Mapam Party, and Shulamit Aloni, head of the Citizens Rights Movement.

Compromise

"We have to speak to the Palestinians directly and reach peace with them through compromise," Eliav said. "The more we speak the better."

The PLO is banned in Israel as a terrorist organisation. But the Citizens Rights Movement and Mapam have called on the government to revoke its ban, and public opinion polls indicate the majority of Israelis support a policy change on this issue.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens today reiterated Israel's opposition to talks with the PLO, saying the group was responsible for some of the worst atrocities committed since World War II.

"We are convinced that establishing contacts, or worse, extending recognition to the PLO, cannot possibly promote peace," Arens told members of the Foreign Press Association. "It is

(Continued on Page 2)

Pakistani nuclear physicist expelled from Netherlands

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Jan 3. (AP): The Dutch authorities have expelled a leading Pakistani nuclear physicist who is allegedly involved in his nation's purported programme to manufacture a nuclear bomb, the Justice Ministry disclosed today.

Abdul Qader Khan, who in 1985 was sentenced here in absentia to a four-year jail term for stealing confidential papers from a Dutch uranium enrichment plant, was arrested on Christmas Eve and put on a plane to Pakistan "as an undesirable alien" the same day, according to ministry spokeswoman Toos Faber.

Dukakis

BOSTON, Jan 3. (Reuters): Michael Dukakis, the defeated US Democratic presidential candidate, announced today that he will not seek a fourth term as Governor of Massachusetts but refused to rule out another bid for the White House.

Emergency landing

JAKARTA, Jan 3. (AP): An Air India Boeing 747 with 281 people aboard made an emergency landing today in Denpasar, Bali, after it received a warning from the Singapore control tower that an explosive device had been planted, an airport officer said.

Flight AI-465 received the warning while on its way from Sydney, Australia, to Singapore.

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Nasser's nephew granted bail

CAIRO, Jan. 3. (Reuters): The nephew of the late President Nasser was granted bail after returning to Egypt today to stand trial with a revolutionary group accused of killing Israeli diplomats.

Gamal Shawki Abdel Nasser, charged with aiding and withholding information about members of the Egyptian Revolution Organisation, pleaded not guilty in State Security Court.

The prosecution, saying Shawki was arrested on arrival from London, sought a remand in custody on the grounds that he might leave the country again.

But defence lawyers said he had left Egypt before charges were brought against him and had voluntarily surrendered himself on his return today.

Absent

The three-judge panel granted bail of (Egyptian) £500 (\$213). The only defendant still absent is Khaled Abdel Nasser, eldest son of former President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Shawki Abdel Nasser, a 34-year-old doctor, appeared calm but refused to speak to reporters. He is one of nine defendants freed on bail who face imprisonment on charges of helping the group carry out attacks between 1984 and 1987.

Prosecutors have demanded the death penalty for 11 others, including Khaled Abdel Nasser who lives in self-exile in Europe.

Walters criticises Non-Aligned Movement

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 3. (AP): Departing US Ambassador Vernon Walters says he has had more trouble in the world forum with the Non-Aligned Movement than with the Soviet Union or China.

Walters, in a wide-ranging interview, also said that UN peacemaking successes in 1988 ending wars in Afghanistan, the Gulf and Angola are unprecedented in the 159-member world organisation.

These successes and warming US-Soviet relations have made the United Nations "a better place for the United States to do business," Walters said.

But Walters, while saying that anti-American name-calling virtually has disappeared, also asserted that the 102-nation Non-Aligned Movement, which is dominated by developing and socialist nations, is "aligned against the United States."

"I am not an admirer of the Non-Aligned Movement," he said, "because it isn't non-aligned. It is heavily aligned against the United States and the freedom-loving nations like Western Europe, with an enormous tendency to blame us for the troubles they brought upon themselves."

Walters declined to specify particular nations, and said that not all members of the movement, which professes non-alignment with the West or the Soviet Union, were anti-American.

Bonn disputes US allegations

W. German firms not building Libyan plant

BONN, Jan. 3. (UPI): West Germany, disputing allegations by the US government, says it has no evidence West German firms were helping construct a chemical weapons plant in Libya.

But Chancellor Helmut Kohl's administration said it would continue to investigate US charges that Imhausen-Chemie Co. and two other West German firms played key roles in building the plant.

The Reagan administration has threatened to destroy the plant, if it is found to be manufacturing chemical arms.

"The inspectors are checking whether there are records of any exports of restricted chemical components — the type that could be used to manufacture toxic gas or other chemical weapons," a West German Finance Ministry spokesman said.

He said the examination began on Friday, and "no evidence has turned up so far."

Evidence

Norbert Shaefer, spokesman for the Bonn government, said on Monday three companies — which he did not name — were being investigated in response to allegations of violations of foreign trade laws.

Schaefer said US officials told Kohl during a Washington visit on Nov 15 that they suspected German companies were involved in the construction of a vast chemical weapons plant in Libya.

A spokesman for the West German state attorney's office said on Monday there was "not enough evidence" to warrant legal action against Imhausen-Chemie, which is based on south-west Germany.

Speaking on West German Radio, the company's president, Juergen Hippenstiel-Imhausen, said Imhausen-Chemie did not export chemical components to Libya and did not have the know-how to manufacture chemical weapons.

West Germany is expected to adopt legislation this month to tighten export controls. Washington earlier criticised loopholes in regulations concerning export of restricted West German military, chemical and nuclear technology to Third World and communist countries.

Pictures

The International Herald Tribune reported on Monday the United States has supplied satellite pictures of the Libyan plant to its allies as part of an effort to prove the factory is making banned chemical arms.

A West German intelligence source, who spoke to the newspaper, said Bonn received the US Central Intelligence Agency photos in the past three weeks.

"But the difficulty on our side is that there is no conclusive evidence in the photographs to support the Americans' opinion that chemical weapons are being made there," the West German official said.

A British intelligence source told the newspaper that the photographic materials provided by the US show a facility that resembles chemical weapons factories in Iraq. The source said the conclusion being drawn by US is based on such comparisons.

The British official said the comparison is not convincing, noting that there was no photographic data on the kinds of material being supplied to the Libyan facility.

Plot

Meanwhile, Libya's official news agency says the United States is using allegations about a chemical weapons plant as a pretext to attack the radical North African Arab nation and kill its leader, Col. Moammar Khaddafi.

Libya's JANA agency, monitored in Rome, noted that a report on Sunday in a United Arab Emirates newspaper quoted unidentified Arab sources as saying America planned to send an assassination team to kill Khaddafi during an attack on Libya.

The daily Al Khaleej said a US task force trained for the attack is in Italy, Spain and aboard US warships in the Mediterranean and said it could come this month. It said the strike would include air raids on a Libyan nuclear research centre at Tajura and the purported chemical weapons plant at Rabtah.

Women's ability varies with hormones

TORONTO, Jan. 3. (AP): New research indicates that the ability of some women to perform certain tasks varies with the level of their sex hormones.

The study by Dr Doreen Kimura of the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, shows women perform significantly better in verbal fluency and fine-motor muscular control when their estrogen and progesterone levels are high.

Kimura's study also showed that women's ability to understand spatial concepts is enhanced by lower hormone levels, she said, adding that similar patterns probably occur in men, whose sex hormone testosterone fluctuates daily.

Kimura, tested 200 women doing the menstrual cycle and post-menopausal women on estrogen-replacement therapy. She compared their spatial cognition and verbal and motor abilities during times of peak and low hormone levels.

Menstruation
The levels rise and fall during the course of a woman's menstrual cycle. The peak estrogen phase begins just before ovulation and extends until a week to 10 days before menstruation. A drop in hormone levels occurs during menstruation.

Spatial tasks which Kimura tested involved identifying a shape in a complex pattern. Tongue-twisting sentences tested verbal skills, and fine-motor tasks included rapid changing of hand postures.

Men generally do better on such spatial problems, but women on average score better on the verbal and fine-motor tasks.

In the low-hormone phase, it might take a woman three seconds longer to repeat a tongue-twister correctly than during her peak level, the researcher said.

She said she is now studying how men's abilities might vary according to the level of testosterone.

Shiite battles flare in Beirut

BEIRUT, Jan. 3. (Reuters): Fierce fighting broke out in Beirut's southern suburbs for the fourth day today in defiance of Syrian attempts to halt the feud between Shiite Muslim militias.

Militia sources said the pro-Syrian Amal and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, who are also battling in south Lebanon, fired artillery, mortars, rockets and machine-guns in the streets of the suburbs.

A Hezbollah spokesman said Amal militiamen, under artillery cover, attacked a Hezbollah base in the Hajaj area after a lull in fighting this morning. Amal said fighting broke out when Hezbollah bombed its positions at Chiyah.

Hezbollah is believed to hold some of the 17 Western hostages in the southern suburbs.



Chinese students demonstrate at a Beijing campus against the alleged molesting of Chinese women by African students. (Reuters wirephoto)

African students accused of molesting Chinese women

BEIJING, Jan. 3. (Reuters): About 100 Chinese students, protesting on a Beijing campus today in the latest incident of racial tension, accused African students of molesting Chinese women.

The protest followed accusations by African students in Nanjing that Chinese police had applied electric cattle prods to the genitals and faces of more than 30 of them during a raid on a guesthouse last Saturday.

A spokesman for the Jiangsu provincial government in Nanjing denied by telephone today that force was used in the raid.

"As far as I know, the entry of the police into the guesthouse was very peaceful. No force was used," he said.

He said Nanjing police had arrested one Ghanaian, and were questioning three other students over a clash which left 13 injured at Hehai University in the city on Christmas Eve.

The clash, which has sparked 10 days of racial tension, began with a row over the admission of two Chinese women to an African student dance.

Explanation

Mamah Gobo Bio, first secretary at the Benin embassy in Beijing, said he would demand an explanation for the torture allegations from the Chinese Foreign Ministry today. It could not be immediately confirmed whether a meeting between the Foreign Ministry and African diplomats had taken place.

The diplomat quoted students in Nanjing as saying that at least seven African students had been detained by police.

In the Beijing rally, students at the city's language institute marched peacefully for about 10 minutes carrying banners reading "do not insult Chinese women."

They alleged a Chinese woman had been seriously injured in an incident on New Year's Eve, after an unidentified African student broke into a women's dormitory and cornered the woman in the toilet. The woman was injured escaping the man's "lewd advances," they said.

The marchers would not identify the woman or themselves.

"We are not anti-foreign, we are not anti-black, but there is a small number of bad people who frequently pester Chinese women," one marcher said.

Earlier, a poster appeared on the campus which read: "To all foreign students: On Chinese soil, you must respect Chinese law. You must not think that, because you are foreign, you can do as you please."

Foreign students said relationships between Africans and Chinese women at the institute were common.

Armenian looters punished

MOSCOW, Jan. 3. (Reuters): Three Armenian relief workers who tried to rob a safe in the cellar of a grain factory in the earthquake-devastated town of Spitak were jailed for six years — although the safe was empty, a newspaper said today.

Sovetskaya Rossiya cited the case as one of several instances of looting in the aftermath of the tremor in Soviet Armenia on Dec 7, which killed at least 25,000 people. All those found guilty have been severely punished.

The three, named as V. Borzykh, S. Oganeyan and A. Ghevorkyan, were working as volunteers in the rescue force at the factory when they found the safe.

"They opened it, hoping to find money and other valuables," the newspaper said. "They got six years each and that was only because the safe was empty. Otherwise the sentence would have been much stricter." They were convicted by the Armenian Supreme Court.

A Yerevan driver, named as V. Manukyan, 36, was jailed for eight years for stealing 1,633 roubles (\$2,721) worth of food from a storehouse in Leninakan, Armenia's second largest city.

Amnesty reports torture in Turkey

LONDON, Jan. 3. (Reuters): Amnesty International said that it had received reports of torture in Turkey almost daily in the past two months and described Turkey's human rights record in the past eight years as appalling.

In a 73-page report, the London-based human rights group said it sent urgent appeals to the Turkish government in November and December to halt what it said was the flood of violations since the military coup of 1980.

"But there has been no apparent effort by the Turkish authorities to change the brutal reality of torture, deaths in custody, political imprisonment and unfair trials," it said in the report entitled "Turkey: Brutal and systematic abuse of human rights."

These, it said, had resulted in thousands of cases of torture and more than 200 suspicious deaths in custody, many alleged to be the result of torture.

"The Turkish government has launched an intense public relations exercise to improve its image but has taken no effective steps to improve its appalling human rights record," the report said.

While there were fewer people

detained on political grounds in recent years, "there has been no significant change in the pattern of human rights violations," Amnesty said.

Denial

Turkey has in the past denied Amnesty's allegations of torture as a product of opposition influence. It rejects claims that torture is systematic and says that offending police and police officials are always tried.

Amnesty said it had submitted the names of 229 men and women who had died in custody in nearly eight years but that the authorities had provided no explanation for 144 of the deaths.

Deaths in custody alleged to be the result of torture persisted in 1988 even after Turkey ratified the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and the UN Convention against Torture, the report said.

Some 250,000 political prisoners were detained up to December 1988 and almost all of them were tortured, Amnesty said.

"Anyone detained on political grounds risks being tortured," the report said.

US, PLO officials discuss Pan Am...

(Continued from Page 1)

planes, it said. SAS said in Stockholm yesterday it had received a bomb threat relayed from police in Budapest.

The caller claimed that Pan Am's New York-bound Boeing 747 was blown up by a pro-Iranian Shiite organisation in revenge for the shooting down of an Iran Air Airbus by the US warship Vincennes in the Gulf last July, killing 290 people.

Iran has categorically denied any involvement in the Dec 21 crash of the Pan Am plane which investigators say was blown out of the sky by a bomb.

Charge

Meanwhile, the Qatar News Agency (QNA) quoted Salah Khalaf, number two to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, as saying the Israeli secret service Mossad was behind the attack of the Pan Am airliner.

He said it was part of a plan by Israel to undermine the "victory" the PLO has won in the intifada — a reference to a year-old Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories.

Khalaf, on a visit to Qatar, said it was not in the interests of the PLO to blow up a civilian plane with innocent people on board. The PLO condemned any terrorist act, he added.

Israeli legislators to meet PLO members

(Continued from Page 1)

bound to encourage extremism and further acts of violence." Beshlehem's Arab Mayors Association has withdrawn its call for a truce in a year-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, saying Israeli repression ruled out peace.

Frej said his call for a UN-sponsored one-year truce, aimed at bringing about an international conference for Middle East peace, had also been rejected by the PLO.

Premature

Frej said the PLO considers any suggestion premature, fully respecting its decision. Frej's appointment as Jordanian moderate, said in a telephone interview on Monday night.

Frej said Israeli military actions, particularly the expulsion of 13 Palestinian activists on Sunday, proved Israel had no interest in a truce.

Khomeini sends his envoy to Gorbachev

(Continued from Page 1)

unlike other Iranian officials who have welcomed Gorbachev's reforms has made no reference to changes in Soviet policy.

But Iran's relations with the Soviet Union improved significantly last year when a ceasefire halted the Gulf war with Iraq and Moscow began pulling its troops out of Afghanistan.

The Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan, Yuli Vorontsov, has been having talks with Afghan rebel leaders and Iranian officials in Tehran.

IRNA said Amoli was accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larjani and a woman Member of Parliament, Marzbeh Haddidechi.

Indira killers' ...

(Continued from Page 1)

inordinate and unreasonable delay." Shortly afterwards Delhi high court also threw out a plea challenging the President's refusal of mercy as "repugnant to the principles of natural justice."

Petition

Satwant Singh's lawyer then moved a special petition in the Supreme Court asking for a stay of execution while a counterclaim was considered against the guards who killed Beant Singh and seriously wounded Satwant.

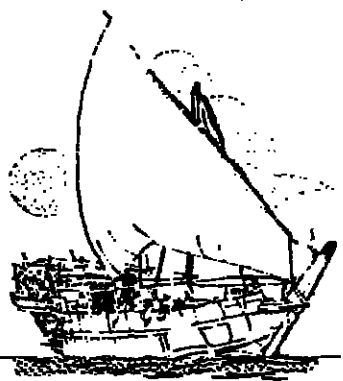
Kehar's lawyer later unsuccessfully asked the high court to reopen the trial in light of fresh evidence implicating a known Sikh extremist, Atinder Pal Singh, in the conspiracy against Indira.

The high court's denials must be reviewed by the Supreme Court, but this need only take a matter of hours.

While the courts were disposing of the pleas, police and paramilitary forces stepped up security around Tihar jail in case of what they called "any untoward incident."



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Spring vacations in February from 1990

KUWAIT, Jan 3, (KUNA): Spring vacations in the academic year 1990 will begin in February instead of in January.

The Minister of Education Anwar Al Nouri and the Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al-Shamlan were directed by HH the Amir to make the change.

Spring vacation is a three-week long holiday for all school and university students. Up until 1983, students usually went on vacation by the end of February, which is the best time for camping outdoors.

The Ministry of Education, four years ago decided to switch to January because it comes at the end of the first part of the academic year and secondly to ensure that school and university vacations coincided.

Most people were unhappy with vacations in January, especially as it is the coldest time of the year.

Saudi message to Sheikh Sabah

KUWAIT, Jan 3, (KUNA): Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber today received a message from Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

The message was delivered by the Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Abdullah Al-Sadi during a meeting with Sheikh Sabah.

Following the meeting, Sheikh Sabah told KUNA that the message included an invitation to participate in the Islamic Countries' Foreign Ministers Meeting scheduled in Riyadh for March 13, this year.

Murdered couple puzzle solved

A LOCAL daily learnt that investigations concerning the Seventh Ring Road murder revealed that the Iraqi youth, whose body was found beside the Kuwaiti girl's, had proposed to the girl three times. The girl's family refused him twice and the girl herself the third time.

The youth, working in Kuwait had a monthly salary of KD120 and lived in Kheitan. He contacted the girl to discover the reason for her refusal on the day of the crime. On the other hand the girl accepted his offer to meet in order to get some of her things from him.

Investigations found out that the girl picked the youth from his residence and proceeded to the Seventh Ring Road. The youth was hiding a gun in a bag and shot his victim four times before shooting himself twice. It is believed that the gun was brought in from abroad.

New ALESCO chief assumes post

TUNIS, Jan 3, (KUNA): Dr Musai Al Rawi has assumed his new post as Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, from Dr Muhai Al Dine Sabir, his predecessor.

In a press statement here, Dr Al Rawi said that as director of the largest Arab educational, Scientific and Cultural institute he is obliged to protect the doctrine of the organisation.

Doctorate

He further added that he would abide by the decisions of the general conference and the executive council in addition to co-operating with the Arab League secretariat and other regional and international organisations.

Iraq-born Al Rawi acquired his doctorate in philosophy and education from the University of California. He was minister of education in the Iraqi government before being chosen as head of the Arab Illiteracy Education Department at ALESCO.

Carpentry shop destroyed by fire

A CARPENTRY shop in Juleeb Al Shuyookh was completely destroyed by fire. Firemen believe it was caused by the electric heater which was left on by the owner in his bedroom which was located above the shop.

Nobody was hurt in the incident. The fire department called upon the public not to leave heaters especially electric ones unattended.

Embassies Complex lacks parking space

MANY people have complained about the lack of parking space at the Embassies Complex situated on the Gulf Road. Complaints also include the size of the entrance/exist gates.

Jarallah Al Harndi, a resident, stated that the gate used for both exit and entry is only two metres wide. This is much too small to facilitate entry of people who go to the various embassies at the complex for visas and other documents.

Iranian searches a violation

Iraq warns of breach in Gulf ceasefire

BAGHDAD, Jan 3, (Agencies): Baghdad said today that Iran would breach the Gulf war ceasefire if it searched Iraqi-bound vessels through the waterway and Iraq would retaliate appropriately.

Al Thawra newspaper, organ of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, said in an editorial Baghdad warned Iran against such tactics and reaffirmed Iraq "has the potential to enforce any flagrant acts by the Tehran regime."

Iraq's Navy commander, Rear Admiral Mohammad Hossein Malekzadeh, said on Sunday his country claimed the right to inspect ships in the Gulf despite the Aug 20 ceasefire in its war with Iraq.

Al Thawra said any Iranian inspection of ships bound for Iraq would constitute "flagrant violation of the ceasefire and UN

Security Council Resolution 596 ordering such a ceasefire and a halt to all military activity on the ground, sea and in the air."

It said the Iranian naval commander's comments did not comply with the international law.

"...At the same time (Iraq) will retaliate appropriately for any action taken by Iran," the newspaper added.

Meanwhile Iranian Premier Hussein Mousavi said yesterday that Iran is nearing military self-sufficiency by building an advanced fighter plane and maintaining its ageing American-made F-4 and F-5 fighters. Tehran television reported.

The broadcast, said Mousavi spoke after inspecting Iranian Air Force facilities, but only showed footage of one single-propeller trainer plane said to be locally built.

Effort to improve conditions for teachers

RETIRED teachers and others who have resigned from the teaching staff of the Ministry of Education to work at other ministries were handed out questionnaires, by the Educational Research Centre, in an effort to find the reasons behind their resignations.

Dr Essa Jassem, the centre's director said that many young qualified Kuwaiti teachers resign and described this phenomenon as too dangerous to be ignored.

The centre is studying this according to recommendations from the undersecretaries of the

council of ministers. Jassem said that the study will focus on economical, social, psychological, professional and personal reasons.

500 questionnaires were sent to the teachers, however only a few have answered, so far.

The official pointed out that the reasons for the study was not to convince teachers to return but rather to improve the lot of teachers.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Jordan are some of the other Arab countries suffering from the same problem.

Iraq, Bahrain call for pan-Arab summit

BAGHDAD, Jan 3, (AP): Iraq and Bahrain called yesterday for a pan-Arab summit to be held soon in order to discuss "joint Arab actions," the state-run radio reported.

President Saddam Hussein and visiting Bahrain Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa agreed that a pan-Arab summit should quickly be convened to review inter-Arab relations and prepare the ground for such action, the radio said.

It gave no details of any specific moves the two leaders

had in mind.

The radio also said Saddam and Khalifa discussed bilateral relations, the situation in Lebanon and "the latest achievements of the Palestinians."

Khalifa, making a one-day visit to Baghdad, returned to Manama after the talks.

Earlier, Iraqi officials speaking on condition of anonymity, had said that Khalifa also would brief the Iraqi leadership on the outcome of a GCC summit held in Bahrain last month.

WHO praises GCC health ministers' resolution

THE director of the regional office of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Dr Hussein Jazayeri has praised the unified medicine and serum procurement resolution adopted by the Gulf Health Ministers Council at their recent meeting in Kuwait.

In an interview with the daily Al-Sayassah, Dr Jazayeri said that the idea of unified procurement has been based on economics and will grant the buyer states a better bargaining position.

He said that the same procedure has saved Bahrain about 35 per cent in costs on

medicine and serum.

Jazayeri added that the unified policy was aimed at ensuring the quality of imported medicines and noted that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were better equipped to handle testing and registration of medicines because of their advanced laboratories.

Jazayeri observed that the medical industry in the region should adopt strict quality control methods if they wanted a share of the GCC medicine markets.

He disclosed that WHO in co-operation with experts has set up a list of medicines required by different countries irrespective of

Osaimi briefs British reporters

KUWAIT, Jan 3, (KUNA): State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al-Osaimi met here today with correspondents of major British newspapers accompanying visiting Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

The British reporters were given elaborate explanations by Osaimi of Kuwait's views on a number of political and economic issues which are of mutual concern to both Kuwait and Britain.

Kuwait's share in British Petroleum and Iraq-Iran negotiations for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598 figured high in Osaimi's meeting with the British reporters.

Osaimi also spoke on GCC relations with Iran and the results of the 9th GCC summit held in Bahrain last month.

The meeting also covered the upcoming Paris conference on chemical weapons, the Mideast crisis and peace dialogues.

The situation in Afghanistan, especially since the withdrawal of Soviet troops as well as Arab-Soviet relations were also tackled at the meeting.

Vaccinations save 1.5 million children annually

VACCINATIONS save at least one and a half million Third World children annually, according to Dr Ralf Henderson, head of the Vaccination Programme at the World Health Organisation (WHO).

A report published by UNICEF stated that in the early 80's less than five per cent of the Third World children were vaccinated, against infectious diseases. Fortunately, this statistic rose to 50 per cent.

Many of these countries have established their own health centres during the past decade.

Henderson hopes to have 85 per cent of the children vaccinated by 1990.

Seven years for attempted rape

THE criminal court has sentenced a man to seven years in jail with hard labour on the charge of attempted abduction and rape of a 12-year-old boy.

The court was told that the man had asked the victim for help in locating the residence of another man, and then invited him into his car.

The child however soon discovered the evil intentions of the man and managed to slip out of the car when a traffic jam forced the man to slow down.

Britain can play leading role in Mideast peace ...

(Continued from Page 1)

and revealed that he has urged Gulf nations to help find the terrorists responsible for the crash of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland on Dec 21.

"As you know, we have just experienced a dreadful attack on a Pan Am airliner over Scotland. I know that our friends in the Gulf will do all they can to help us identify those responsible, for there must be no safe haven for such wicked actions," he said.

He called for support to UN efforts to consolidate peace in the Gulf. He said: "We must all support the UN secretary-general's continuing efforts to consolidate peace."

He said both Iraq and Iran should work towards resolving their differences so that they could resume "the business of rebuilding their countries and economies."

Commenting on Britain's role

in protecting Gulf shipping, he said the Armilla Patrol has played a vital part in promoting security.

"This remains an important British objective and we shall continue to maintain the Armilla Patrol as long as it has a useful role to play," he added.

He dismissed as "speculation" reports that the US was preparing to take military action against an alleged chemical weapons plant in Libya. He said the deployment of US ships in the Mediterranean was a "routine matter and something that should not arouse concern."

However, he expressed concern about the reported Libyan nuclear capabilities.

"As far as reports of chemical warfare capabilities in Libya are concerned, we find any reports of that kind very disturbing," he said.

Howe arrived yesterday in Saudi Arabia on the second leg of his six nation tour.

Awadi to inaugurate environment campaign

THE Minister of Planning, acting Minister of Public Health and Chairman of the Environmental Protection Council Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi will inaugurate the Marine Environment Protection Campaign at the Environmental Protection Society headquarters in Shuwaikh next Saturday.

Awareness

The ceremony will be attended by the secretary of the Environmental Protection Council Ibrahim Mohammad Hadi, chairman of the society Hamed Abdul Salam Shuaib and senior officials from ministries and institutions who have an interest in environmental protection.

Ibrahim Al Hadi said the opening ceremony will be concluded with distribution of leaflets and posters urging the

increase of public environmental awareness among campers in the desert.

He said that 18 symposia would be held at different times at the Desert Service Centres in Wafra, Mishrif and Doha where specialists from various ministries and agricultural agencies would discuss subjects intended to raise public awareness for the environment.

He also said that the Jahra eastern forest area would be fenced and allocated as a natural conservatory for migrant birds, in co-operation with the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources.

Hadi added that the next stage would involve a massive survey of the area aimed at establishing the different kinds of birds visiting the country.

Iraq to relax restrictions on foreign travellers

BAGHDAD, Jan 3, (AP): The Iraqi government has decided to relax restrictions on foreigners wishing to travel to Iraq as part of President Saddam Hussein's political liberalisation campaign, a government publication reported today.

Al-Itihaad, a weekly magazine published by the Federation of The Chamber of Commerce, said Hussein signed a decree on Dec 26 relaxing restrictions on travel.

While Al-Itihaad did not elaborate on the move, an official source said that once the decree comes into effect, most Arab nationals and many foreigners will be allowed to enter Iraq without visas. He would not elaborate.

It also was not clear if the decree covered journalists who usually need Information Minis-

try approval and entry visas to be allowed into the country.

The decree will become effective only after it is published in the official gazette, and the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he did not know when that will take place.

Iraqi travellers will not benefit from the new move. Iraqis will still need government permission and the necessary permits to leave the country.

Hussein embarked on his political liberalisation campaign last year, after a UN-sponsored ceasefire halted the eight-year war with Iran. He announced in November that the formation of political parties will be allowed after 20 years of monopoly of power by the ruling Baath Arab Socialist Party.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

UNIC works to promote regional peace

A MAJOR United Nations agency is playing a significant role in promoting peace, security and economic development in the Gulf. The Bahrain-based United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) has been a positive influence in securing general peace and stability in the region since its inception in the island in 1978.

The UNIC here serves Qatar and UAE, apart from Bahrain. The office is an extension of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat and is one of 69 similar centres worldwide.

In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times, Milan Qadrad-Din, Director of UNIC Bahrain, described the role of his centre as a "catalyst" between the United Nations and the host country.

"Our basic objective in accordance with the UN resolution is to promote and inform understanding of the work of the United Nations among member states."

UNIC also provides service for documentation on various issues pertaining to the host country, particularly on economic development. Valuable and detailed information on the UN is disseminated to academic institutions, government ministries, legal bodies and individuals.

The centre promotes the UN cause and regional issues through the media, particularly the press and radio. Films are also produced regularly to convey the overall message of the UN in order to gain widespread audience.

UNIC, which is also the political arm of the UN Secretariat, works in close association with the Foreign, Information and Education Ministries of the host country and ensures promotion of various activities in full conformity with the desires of the state concerned, according to Qadrad-Din.

"We are fully aware of the consciousness of the people in the region and we try to work in accordance to the needs and wants of the host nation. Our main priorities are to maintain and promote peace-making, peace-keeping, economic development and the preservation of a healthy environment in the region", Qadrad-Din said.

"We have been active in securing information from the local media in regional issues and developments and relaying them to our headquarters. We go by entirely what individual newspapers report in the region. Similarly, I act as the spokesman when required to issue any statement from the secretariat", he further added.

The UNIC director praised the media in the region in general and in Bahrain in particular as excellent. He said that news coverage in general has been very positive and strictly impartial.

Commenting on the major achievements of UNIC in the region over the last decade, Qadrad-Din said considerable progress has been made in the field of education.

The centre introduced, with the help of the Ministry of Education in Bahrain, the work of the United Nations and its various specialised agencies in the curriculum of educational institutions in the island.

"Our aim is to reach maximum number of the younger generations through education. By educating youth, we can achieve wider awareness and acceptance of this noble organisation," he emphasised.

In keeping with this spirit UNIC works in close association with United Schools International (a non-governmental UN supported agency) to promote and organise various educational programmes in Bahrain as well as other Gulf states.

In 1988, the centre successfully highlighted a campaign entitled "On African Economic Recovery" with a special message to students worldwide.

The director said that in 1989 the centre will make additional effort to approach various educational institutions in the region to promote UN goals, focusing particularly on youth.

There will be a greater activity in strengthening the centre's relationship with various government and social organisations, he added.

UNIC also works in close co-operation with other UN agencies in the region, which includes United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Environmental Programme.

The centre, receives "generous contribution" from the Bahraini government, which provides office premises and staff accommodation.

UNIC will mark the annual International Women's Day on March 8 in Bahrain. Together with a host of women's organisations in the island, it will help organise a number of events focusing on women's issues both in Bahrain and around the world.

KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL HOTEL PRESENTS

JANUARY 1989

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Spanish Extravaganza

The Paso de Alba Trio from Alicante, Spain, will present "Ballet Espanol" featuring classical flamenco and traditional folklore dances. A rich variety of delicious Spanish dishes will be prepared for lovers of Iberian cuisine.

Chinese Festival

A colourful variety show presented by 16 Artists from the People's Republic of China will entertain you with acrobatic stunts, magic illusions, music and dances, while you savour the flavourful Chinese dishes prepared by our Chinese chefs.

Soft Trio

This attractive and accomplished Ladies Trio from Poland will entertain you nightly at the Falaka Restaurant with their repertoire of light music.

The Edinburgh Philharmonic Quartet

A quartet of Scotland's Philharmonic Orchestra will give an evening performance, during which they will delight music-lovers with a selection of contemporary music as well as classical pieces by such composers as Haydn, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven.

For details: Tel: 2530000 Ext. 8035

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Growth of private education sector considerable: Muhanna

THE director of the Private Education Department at the Ministry of Education Abdullah Muhanna has said that the private education sector has grown considerably over the years particularly after the ministry set the conditions on students qualified for admission into the public education sector.

He told a local newspaper that the growth of the private education sector was mainly to accommodate the number of expatriate students who failed to obtain admission in public schools, and that the department supervised the activities of private schools.

Differences

He said this required intensive efforts and co-ordination with the various educational establishments in the country, due to the existing differences in the educational approach followed by private schools.

Muhanna added that the department continually expanded its control and supervision of

the educational process at these schools and other institutes and private educational centres, and that it kept in direct contacts with these facilities. Visits are made by school inspectors on a regular basis to ensure that schools used valid educational curricula, qualified teachers and relevant religious subject matter that did not conflict with the teachings and ideals of Islam.

Aid

He went on to say that the ministry's financial aid to Arab schools was paid to them following confirmation of their compliance with ministry regulations.

He also said that the difficulties encountered by expatriate students in seeking admission to public schools made many of them seek admission in private schools.

Some parents also decide to send their children to private schools so that they may receive their education in English, French or other languages.

Kuwaiti engineer awarded American IEEE fellowship

KUWAIT, Jan 3, (KUNA): Engineer Abdul Rahman Khalid Al Ghanim, former under-secretary of the Ministry of Communications and ex-state minister for municipal affairs, has been granted the Fellowship of American International Electric and Electronics Engineers' Society (IEEE) to become the first Kuwaiti engineer to score such a distinct accomplishment.

The award was decided by the IEEE board of directors during its meeting last Nov 20 and 21.

The IEEE's fellowship was awarded to Eng. Al Ghanim for his contributions in developing Arab and international telecommunications through his positions at the Arab Space Agency (Arabsat), International Marine Satellite (Inmarsat) and other similar organisations.

Questionnaire to monitor disease

A QUARTER of a million health questionnaires are to be distributed over all Kuwaiti Preliminary Health Care Centres, to be filled by the centre's patients, according to a local daily.

The questionnaires aim at collecting health information about expatriates and citizens throughout the different seasons.

Monitor

Dr Kamel Abdullah Al Saleh, head of the Health Statistics Department in the Ministry of Education, said in an interview with the daily, that the questionnaire, amongst other things, aims at monitoring sickness cases among citizens during January and February, especially those spending their time in the desert.

He added that the experiment was the first of its kind in the GCC states and shall enrich the ministry's statistical research and encourage field studies. The success depends on information accuracy.

Strategy

Saleh confirmed the importance of the study's role in setting up the country's health strategy and control of diseases. He added that collected data will be computerised and doubtful data excluded. The outcomes of the study will be recruited to serve scientific research.

Similar studies carried out in the winters of 1985, 1986 and 1987 confirmed that cold cases increased during winter by 31 per cent while respiratory system inflammation cases mounted to 29.5 per cent and tonsillitis had increased by 29 per cent.

VIDEO CORNER

Whacko Jacko walking on the moon

By Gail Seery

FIRST question of the year: how come a millionaire rock star doesn't pull his socks up, or realise that he's grown, and that now his trousers are too short?

Not that I'm complaining. Michael Jackson has come a long way from the days when he had to play second fiddle to a bear who begged cookies on the Andy Williams Show, as Moon-walker, currently top billing in many UK cinemas, attests.

Actually, this film offers you the unique opportunity to test your Michael Jackson tolerance. If you stick it for two minutes only, you have only yourself to blame. The label clearly carries the warning: Michael Jackson. If you switched off after ten minutes, you did not try hard enough. Life in the latter years of the Twentieth century is likely to become a torment to you. If you watched half of the film or more without a break for counselling, well done, your Michael Jackson tolerance is good to excellent. If you watched the whole thing, including the credits, then you must either be a totally committed Jackson fan or unable to find your remote control and pathologically lazy, or an Arab Times video reviewer, or all three.

I should emphasise to all parents, that this film is absolutely useless if you would like to show your kids what will happen if they don't give up rock music and concentrate on maths and chemistry.

The film opens with a montage of Jackson's career highlights, including some of the more critical headlines, the ones which suggest that he's a whacko. This is not a view I adhere to. Whether or not half the stories are true, Jackson is a shrewd businessman, a gifted singer and supple dancer. He also knows how to package a product superbly. His success and astronomical earnings support my view of him, as does the sheer number of his fans worldwide.

The story, when we finally get there, is innocuous, with a strong anti-drugs element which is a little too goody-goody to be persuasive. The message seems to be either that Michael Jackson is a really nice guy who is kind to animals and children, or that he is really Obe Wan Konohe. He doesn't actually say, "May the force be with you," but gets pretty close at times.

There are a number of chase scenes in the film and all the

time I was thinking: "Oh no, sooner or later this will turn into a song and dance routine." In the old Hollywood musicals, the singer would be having a conversation, then break to gaze wistfully past the cameras as the orchestra struck up, and here in the 1980s the star gets pursued by a cracktroop of heavily armed drug pushers for at least twenty minutes before gazing wistfully past the cameras while the band strikes up.

I thought the preamble to Thriller was brilliant but long; but in Moonwalker Jackson surpassed himself, having already made it into the Guinness Book of Records on the basis of album sales, he is obviously trying to earn a place for the longest song preamble, and longest ever film credits.

This is really a film for true Jackson fans, but would be more entertaining for ordinary folk if it were a little shorter — the film suffers from repetition, not always accidental, and occasionally meant to be dream-like. This mars some otherwise good ideas. The songs and the dance routines are superb, even if they occasionally seem stereotyped, or like a Jane Fonda workout tape.



Michael Jackson: rock star

By Shaun Seekins

IF anyone thought that the real Michael Jackson would be exposed in Moonwalker they can think again, all we see is the 'image' not the man. That said however, I very much doubt if any of his multitude of fans will be disappointed, because this film is Michael, Michael and yet more Michael. Moonwalker is composed of a series of clips, a tribute to a brilliant Eighties song and dance man, the opening sequence shows Jackson in concert, then follows a resume of his career to date. After this we get to grips with some superb film making, the first is Bad remade with a cast of kids, then comes Speed Demon, Jackson Disney style and a very clever piece called Leave Me Alone. But the best must be Smooth Criminal an eleven-minute mini-adventure with Robocop, Terminator and Star Wars all thrown in. I started the film ready to dislike it, but became more and more impressed as time went by. See it, it's worth it.

Shag refers to a dance craze that swept the popular US resort of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in 1963. Telling their parents that they are off to view colonial homes, strait-laced senator's daughter Luanne (Page Hannah, sister of Darryl), shy Pudge (Annabeth Gish), brassy Melaina (Bridget Fonda) and prim Carson (Phoebe Cates) head for the beach and one last fling before

Not such a bad criminal



Rupert Graves, Kristin Scott Thomas and James Wilby star in A Handful of Dust.

they leave high school for their separate futures.

It's not long before things get complicated as the four set up home in Luanne's family holiday mansion. The climax of the weekend is the annual Shag contest and the rivalries become serious between the four friends. A fast moving

light-hearted film with some good dance scenes.

The classy run of period British literary adaptations, which has been devoted almost solely of late to E.M. Forster, continues with A Handful of Dust, a passionate and moving slice of Evelyn Waugh. From a dazzling opening set against South

American waterfalls and jungle to the opulence of English 1930's country house life and London nightlife, all is woven into superb cinema.

Tony and Brenda Last (James Wilby and the beautiful and talented newcomer Kristin Scott Thomas) seem happily married in Hetton, their ram-

bling country house. But when idle and penniless scrounger John Beaver (Rupert Graves) arrives for the weekend he becomes the catalyst for an increasingly shattering series of events. Lady Brenda takes him as her lover and sets him up in a London flat, she tells her husband that she's following a course in economics and he falls for her story. However, when their son is killed in a hunting accident, she uses that as an excuse to walk out on her husband. There then follows a messy divorce which exposes the blatantly unrealistic code of behaviour that prevailed in a certain section of British society at that time.

Love and War stars James Woods and tells the story of a US naval pilot who is shot down in Vietnam and suffers an eight year period of torture and despair at the hands of his sadistic guards. Dance Academy is an attempt to jump on the Dirty Dancing bandwagon, well made but doesn't come close to the original. Dallas continues, and a new best-seller recounting the events leading up to the overthrow of President Marcos, A Dangerous Life.

Jack Nicklaus tells you how in Golf My Way and Basketball and American football continue.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI Farwanji/Fintas; Video Naut — Tel: 2432808; and Video Club — Tel: 5724372.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.10 Good Morning
- 9.15 Cartoon serial
- 9.45 World News via Satellite
- 10.00 Quloob Hazina: Arabic serial
- 10.50 News Summary/Good Morning
- 11.00 Bait Al Awham: local Arabic serial
- 12.00 Variety Show
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 Holy Quran/Close-down

EVENING

- 4.00 Holy Quran
- 4.15 World News via Satellite
- 4.45 Bambo: animated feature
- 5.15 Variety Show
- 5.30 Liqa Fi Al Zakira: historical serial
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.15 Askan Wal Mawatin: Housing and Citizens
- 7.45 Al Taqaddum Al Ilim: Science Show
- 8.30 Good Evening
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.55 Daily Arabic serial: Duwar Ya Zaman
- 10.45 Agniya Fi Tamaniyat: guests are Muna Abdul Ghani and Hamed Sharawi
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 World News via Satellite
- 12.20 Holy Quran/Close-down

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Transformers: cartoons



Meryl Streep stars in tonight's feature film Out of Africa, 10.30 pm on KTV 2.

6.30 Prestige: a new series for young viewers, it tells the story of a boy's dedication to his family

7.30 Mutual of Omaha: a programme on wildlife, it examines the habitat of lions, tigers, bears and other species of animals.

8.00 News in English

8.40 You and the Law: local programme

8.55 Matlock: is the story of a lawyer who turns detective to save his clients from a terrible fate.

9.40 The Cosby Show.

Theo Huxtable is urged to visit a friend in hospital

10.30 Feature Film: Out of Africa. A Sydney Pollack film, winner of Oscar for Best Picture and Best Director, the film is based on a true story. Starring: Meryl Streep and Robert Redford

12.00 News Summary/followed by Magazine D'Actualite/ Holy Quran/Close-down.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

- 0600 Newsweek
- 30 Outlook
- 0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 25 Financial News
- 30 How It All Began
- 45 The Sound of Scotland
- 0200 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Health Matters
- 30 Citizens
- 0300 World News
- 09 News About Britain
- 15 The World Today
- 30 Discovery
- 0400 Newsweek
- 30 Business Matters
- 45 The Sound of Scotland
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Financial News
- 40 Words of Faith
- 45 The World Today
- 0600 Newsweek
- 30 Meridian
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Development '88
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 0800 World News
- 09 Words of Faith
- 15 Business Matters
- 30 Quote, Unquote
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 The World Today

- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 How It All Began
- 1000 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 30 Jazz for the Asking
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The Sound of Scotland
- 30 Meridian
- 1200 Newsweek
- 15 Just the Job (ex 25 They Made Our World)
- 25 The Farming World
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Development '88
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
- 45 Business Matters
- 1500 Newsweek
- 15 The Learning World
- 30 King Street Junior (ex 4th Two Cheers for 1988)
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The Beeb's Lost Beatles Tapes
- 45 The World Today
- 1700 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Society Today
- 30 New Ideas
- 40 Book Choice
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newsweek
- 30 Multitrack 2
- 1900 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 25 Financial News
- 30 Network UK
- 45 How It All Began

- 2000 World News
- 09 The World Today
- 25 Words of Faith
- 30 Assignment
- 2100 News Summary followed by Sports Roundup
- 15 The Beeb's Lost Beatles Tapes
- 45 Recording of the Week
- 2200 Newsweek
- 2300 World News
- 09 4th and 25th Commentary: 11th and 18th Sportsworld Extra
- and the US Sound Books a Selection
- 30 Multitrack 2

English

- Morning
- 0800 Opening
- 0802 Songs and Music
- 0805 Writers and Poets in Arabic Literature
- 0830 News
- 0840 Songs and Music
- 0845 Daily Programme
- 0900 Golden Collections
- 0930 Album Tracks
- 1000 Our Press Today
- 1005 Songs and Music
- 1030 Music With a Theme
- Evening
- 2100 Opening
- 2102 Pop Scene
- 2130 News
- 2145 Point of View
- 2155 Songs and Music
- 2215 Musical Celebrities
- 2245 Daily Programme
- 2300 Soul With a Beat
- 2330 Choice of the Week
- 2400 Close-down
- 1100 Close-down
- 1330 News on FM Service

Urdu

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Behasteen Quail
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Subhan-e-Nau
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Hidayate Rabbani
- 2100 Close-down

PRAYERS

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr | 5.19 am |
| Zuhr | 11.53 |
| Asr | 2.45 pm |
| Maghreb | 5.03 |
| Isha | 6.26 |

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT — Thurs: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT — Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon: 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Sultan Gallery
ANN Eid: Photographs of Kuwait, on show at the gallery. Thunayan Al Ghanem Bldg., Al Sour St. Open daily from 5-8 pm.

Ghadir Gallery
JAN 10-24: Kuwaiti artist Awatif Al Shatty will display a selection of her latest paintings at the gallery. It will be open from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Kuwait Society of Formative Arts
JAN 27 to Feb 9: The Kuwait Society for Formative Arts will hold the annual general exhibition, displaying art works by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti plastic artists.

The society invites formative artists, Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti, to submit their works. RULES: The exhibition is open to all plastic artists residing in Kuwait. A maximum of three paintings can be submitted.

Only original works which have not been exhibited before in Kuwait or elsewhere will be accepted. The works of art that will go on show will be selected by a committee and the society retains the right to reject any work of art. The last date for submitting entries is Jan 20. Entries can be delivered from 5 to 8 pm at the premises of the K.S.F.A., Hawalli.

THEATRE

Tamil Play
JAN 6: 5 pm. IAC presents full-length Tamil play entitled "Unmaiye Un Vilai Enna?" (Truth: What is the Price?) Directed by C.K.V. Raman. For guest passes call 3904817; 3903879; 4881359; 5616930.

Konkani Drama
JAN 13: 3 pm. Labour Union Hall, Hawalli. The Goa Cultural Association presents Konkani drama entitled "Tujem Sukh Mozo Dusan". Written and directed by Rex de Bardez. The cast includes the Mendes Brothers, Anthony and guest-stars from Goa — William de Curtoim and S. Lemos. For details contact the GCA members.

Kuwait Players
Kuwait Players present Alice in Wonderland, a musical fantasy directed by Carol Jelley. It will be performed at the Universal American School, Salwa. Performances are as follows: Jan 17 (7.30 pm) Gala night. Jan 18 and 25 (6.30 pm) family night. Jan 19/26: matinee (3 pm) and evening (7.30 pm). Jan 20: 3 pm, 5.30 pm. Jan 23: 5.30 pm: Madhatters Tea Party, followed by Alice in Wonderland. Jan 27: Final performance. Tickets — KD3 (adults) and KD2.500 (children). For reservations call 5726048, 5657749.

Cultural Show
JAN 6: The Nirghar Cultural Group will stage a cultural show at the Al Andalus Ballroom, Holiday Inn Hotel,

to celebrate Bangladesh's Victory Day. For invitations contact Firoz on 4310483.

Mandao Festival
The Kuwait Konkani Kendra will organise a "Mandao Festival." Anyone interested in taking part can contact the organisers on Tel: 2644983 before Jan 30.

SOCIAL

German-Speaking Cultural Association
JAN 8: To start the New Year, the regular monthly coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held on Sunday, Jan 8, at 10 am, at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Newcomers are particularly welcome.

Contact
JAN 14: The next meeting of the ladies information group Contact will be held at the SAS Tent. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details Tel: 3720197/4874513/5388105.

Bharathi Kalai Mandram
JAN 20: IAC, Funaites. The Bharathi Kalai Mandram, a fine arts association of the Tamil speaking community, will celebrate the Nehru centenary and Pongal, harvest festival. A variety show featuring classical dances, music and drama are some of the highlights of the programme. For entry passes call 5331561.

At the Intercontinental
LA PALMA offers the Friday brunch from 11.30 am to 3 pm. Hot and cold buffet, family entertainment and light music provided by the Soft Trio.

At the Pullman
ELYSEES restaurant offers gourmet French meal; Al Shallal Coffee Shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.

At the Sheraton
Riccardo's: Italian cuisine prepared using home-made pasta; lunch and dinner, evening entertainment by the Siena's Duo. Closed on Fridays.

Al Hambra: Sundays: Lebanese cuisine; Tuesday's is Thai Night; Wednesday's: seafood night; musicians provide a blend of music from the East and the West.

Fridays buffet brunch while the children enjoy games in the ballroom next door.

Hunt Room: lunch and dinner rest... specialises in meat and fish dishes.

Le Tarbouche: offers a taste of Lebanon for lunch and dinner. Thursdays: Arab world specialities night.

Coffee Shop offers casual meals and quick lunches plus a daily special.

At the Ramada
AL BENDAR Coffee Shop offers Continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner: 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.

Thursdays is BBQ Night at Le Mirage Night Club, with full buffet and entertainment by the Al Arzz Band.

The Friday Family Brunch introduces cartoon characters on the ship's discovery; train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.

The Marina Takeaway Counter features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 to 11 pm.

At the Continental
GARDENIA: 7 am to midnight; buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch.

Darbar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.

At the SAS
AL BUSTAN Friday Brunch: for families from 11.30 am to 3 pm, highlights include music by Polish duo Danuta and Feliks and video corner for kids.

Peacock Room: Chinese

meals prepared by chef Von Kwee Kiong. The menu features fried wonton, sauteed diced chicken with cashew nut and steak Chinese style.

Al Boom: "New Taste of the Week" prepared by chef Peter D. Zobrist. Appetisers, charcoal grilled steak and seafood, plus daily special.

At the Kuwait Plaza
FILIPINO night held every Sunday from 7 to 9.30 pm.

Al Dallah coffee shop: buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner; also set menu; mini-business lunch. International Food Arcade: 4 to 10 pm; icecream festival: light snacks served from 10 am to 11.30 pm.

Bosphorus Restaurant: Turkish cuisine, a la carte; lunch and dinner daily except Saturday.

SPORTS
Tennis Clinic
Tennis Clinic begins at the Kuwait International Hotel on Feb 4. For reservations call Colin Hall on 2533000.

Ahmad Kart Racing
JAN 6: Friday. Kart racing at Ahmad KOC track starts at 1.30 pm. Gates open to spectators. Entrance: 500 fils. All are welcome.

PBAK Bowling
JAN 6 (Friday) 8.30 am: Quezon City vs Paranaque (KAC); Zamboanga City vs Cavite City (Chiquita). At 11.30 am: Manila vs Valenzuela; Mandaluyong vs Las Pinas; At 2.30 pm: Makati vs Baguio City; San Juan vs Calocan city. The league has been sponsored by Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd., and Holiday Inn Hotel.

Football Tournament
JAN 20: Rising Stars seven-a-side one-day football tournament will be held at Al Sour Ground. Teams wishing to participate can contact Lawrence — Tel: 4832409/2657293; Eric — Tel: 3262800/5650466.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Aliens
Starring: James Cameroon
Al Sahmra
Funoon Centre
Performance
Al Hambra
Ganga, Jamuna, Saraswati (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Meenakshi Sehahiri, Jaya Prada
Drive-In
Yom Mur Yom Helu (Arabic)
Starring: Faten Hamama, Mohammad Muneir
Fahadhel Open-Air
Saahel (Hindi)
Starring: Dilip Kumar

Al Firdous
Adholokam (Malayalam)
Starring: Nedumudi Venu, Parjatha
Al Fahadhel
Al Tahadi (Arabic)
Al Fahadhel
King of the Streets
Granada
Asfour Al Sharq (Arabic)
Solalikhah
Oru Sindoorapottente
Ormakku (Malayalam)
Al Jeeb
Man Hunt
Ahmadi Drive-In
Asfour Al Sharq (Arabic)

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Ahlam Pharmacy
Souk Muttehaba, Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Garnata Pharmacy
Rashed Bldg., Fahd Al Salem St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Nasser Pharmacy
Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rumaitiya
Al Nahda Pharmacy
Mishari Al Khalid Bldg., Baghdad St.
Fahadhel and Ahmadi
Al Fulaj Pharmacy
nr. Safeway, Makkah St.
Khalitan
Al Tawfiq Pharmacy
Raja's Commercial Centre, South St.
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

WANTED DESIGNERS

for an advertising agency.

Applicants must have a minimum of 5 years' experience as a designer and a transferable work visa.

Telephone 2418730/8 for an appointment

By Kathy Cuddihy

THE cooler weather has brought the ski buffs out of seclusion. It's as though their collective confidence rises as the temperatures drop. Conversations suddenly have liberal references to this year's "in" slopes, the newest pre-ski exercise programmes, the latest equipment, and the trendiest apres-ski togs.

I can well identify with ski enthusiasts. Long ago and far away I was one myself. My former addiction to the sport bordered on fanaticism. Every Friday afternoon I would impatiently type the last lines of my work, then willingly succumb to the lure of the mountains. Monday morning reminded me that I had to get back to work in order to earn the income to support my habit.

Since there's no one here who can legitimately contradict me, it's safe to say that I was pretty good. What I lacked in style and precision, I more than made up for in sheer daring. No slope proved too difficult, no mountain too daunting, no mogul too mighty — although occasionally one would catch me by surprise and send me flying.

After a break of several years due to extensive travel, I found myself back in the snows, in Canada's far north. Somehow the

A bad twist

rumour circulated that I was "pretty good" on skis. On the strength of this, local ski club officials asked me if I would join their ski patrol unit. Their flattery overruled my own common sense. I accepted and flew south with the selected group to Labrador City for special training.

Not wanting to waste any valuable time, the course demanded our presence as soon as we could stash our gear and buckle our boots. It didn't seem to matter that it had already been dark for a couple of hours. We were dedicated professionals. At least, that's what our zealous coach kept telling us. No one but me seemed to notice that the temperature had dipped to a chilled -30°F. And everyone was noticeably fitter.

"Never mind the lift. You can run up the side of the slope. It will help you get into shape," shouted the instructor with disgusting vigour.

Fine for him to say. He obviously had no heart, so he didn't have to worry about it suddenly giving out. Too late, I was beginning to fathom the importance of all those pre-ski exercises that I had previously felt myself above enduring.

"Loosen up, bend those knees," came his constant, nagging commands.

I obviously wasn't made of the right stuff. I preferred to think there was life after ski school — and I didn't want to have to spend it in a constantly crouched posture because my bended knees had frozen permanently in that position.

After a couple of hours of what he called an introductory lesson, but what I considered Olympic-level techniques, El Fiendo dismissed us. But not without a little reminder.

"Get a good night's sleep, kids, because tomorrow we begin the real workout. We hit the high slopes, and up there is no mercy."

Wonderful. There was no doubt that I would sleep well. I was just worried that I might never wake up. Alternatively, I could wake up in a painfully crippled state: my other folly had been to buy ritzy new equipment...and not bother to break in the boots.

The next morning my blisters screamed as I persuaded them back into the punishing boots. The day looked deceptively clear and sunny, but a "refreshing breeze" turned a bearable -20°F into a cruel -45°F with the chill

factor. This ski course had fast developed into an endurance test — one that I not only didn't want to fail, but that I didn't want to pass, either.

Casting a silent prayer upward, I willed a miracle to happen. Nothing extravagant or dramatic, just something to release me from this wretched course.

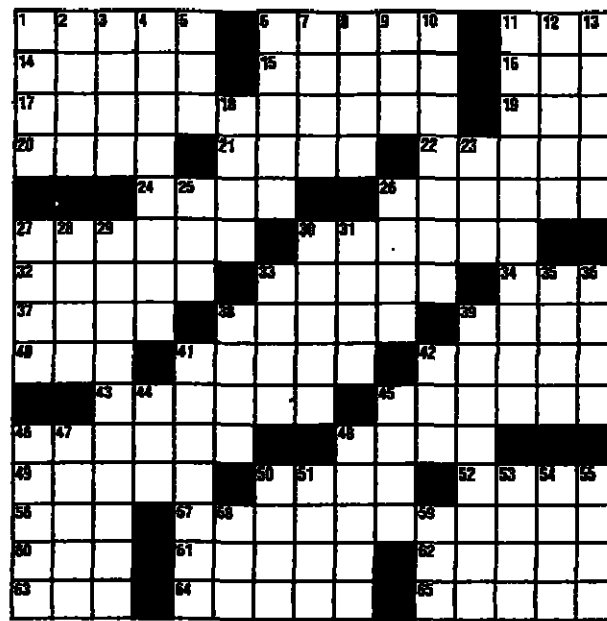
"Make a parallel turn," the instructor ordered, snatching me from my reverie. With reluctance, I obeyed. Then, bingo. It happened. I suddenly collapsed in the snow, felled by something snapping in my leg.

The mountain rescue team whisked me over the difficult terrain painlessly and quickly. The hospital diagnosed torn ligaments and issued me a pair of crutches, attributing the injury to the bitterly cold weather. I knew the real cause, of course, but didn't want to blurt out anything about the power of prayer — just in case the miracle retracted itself.

With much relief, I missed out on the frostbite and split lips suffered by the other team members. I also missed out on the ski season, but somehow this didn't seem like a great price to pay.

I've retired from skiing now, but I still like to reminisce with friends once in a while about the old days...when I was "pretty good."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Beat
 - USN ranking
 - Enraged
 - Papal cape
 - Drivers' org.
 - Fellowship
 - Correspondence abbr.
 - Winged
 - Periods
 - Money in India
 - Stern
 - Makes the grade
 - Math term
 - Overlook
 - Public square
 - Street show
 - Harem room
 - Arrived
 - Citrus trees
 - Piece of change
 - Latin word
 - nut
 - Old Italian coin
 - Part of USA
 - Plum
 - Flaw
 - Sharp cry
 - Tin Pan —
 - Sailing
 - Willow
 - Social affair
 - Bell ringers' science
 - Humpty
 - Dumpty, e.g.
 - Public records
- DOWN**
- Type size
 - Russian range
 - Tibetan holyman
 - Daydream
 - Always, to
 - Keats
 - Gomorra's neighbor
 - Allowance for waste
 - What pitchers have
 - Yale student
 - Nobility
 - Portable seats
 - Saine site, informally
 - Sahara stopovers
 - Entrance to a mine
 - Put into service
 - Gene
 - component
 - Wash, VIP
 - Animal lovers' gp.
 - Ancient country
 - Disguise
 - Renowned
 - Pitcher
- HERSHISER**
- Ritual
 - Prank
 - Shortly
 - Resident of Latvia
 - Puts together
 - Two-wheeler
 - My gal —
 - By birth
 - Faculty head
 - Old-fashioned
 - Poem of lament
 - Time periods
 - Both: Prefix
 - Small barracuda
 - Indian weight
 - Rome of Hungary
 - Affirmatives
 - Abet
 - Table scrap

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

PUSHY BID, BEAUTIFUL PLAY

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♠ A Q 8 6

♥ K 8 3

♦ A 4

♣ A K 8

EAST

♠ 9 7 3

♥ J 5 2

♦ Q 8

♣ Q 10 6 2

SOUTH

♠ K J 10 5 4

♥ Void

♦ 10 9 7 2

♣ J 9 5 3

The bidding:

West North East South

2♥ 2♠ Pass 4♣

Pass 6♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠

Even seemingly impossible contracts can sometimes be made. All you have to do is picture a distribution that will enable you to get home, then presume that the vision in your mind's eye actually exists.

South's jump to four spades over the takeout double was perhaps a trifle aggressive, but it is not easy to find a bid that fits the hand to a tee.

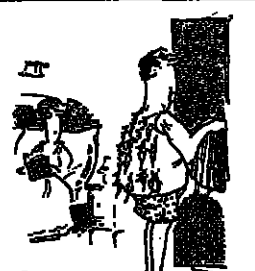
North's leap to six spades is beyond reproach.

This hand was reported in *International Popular Bridge Monthly*. (Available from The Bridge World, 37 East 94th St., New York, N.Y. 10025 at \$30 per annum.) The fact that no declarer was named in the

article as being responsible for the brilliant play featured below leads us to suspect that it might have been found after the fact rather than at the table.

With a trump or a diamond lead, the contract must fail. After a club (or a heart) lead, though, the slam cannot be beaten. Let's assume that the lead is a club. Since declarer has to ruff three diamonds in dummy, he cannot afford to draw two rounds of trumps. And since he has to take a diamond discard on the jack of clubs, he needs to find West specifically with a singleton trump and doubleton club.

Play low from dummy to the first trick. Suppose East wins the queen and shifts to a diamond. Win the ace, come to hand with a trump and then cash the ace-king of clubs. Return to hand with a heart ruff and discard a diamond on the jack of clubs. Now all you have to do is crossruff the red suits to come 12 tricks. Easy, isn't it!



"By the way, dear—I've got a new secretary!"



"It's your mother, dear."

Are you a loser in love?

By Lisa Stacey

ARE you the type of girl who always manages to find the joker in the pack and lose your heart to the wrong man? Do you long to win the love game, but find that your gamble never pays off?

Or are you the type who always finds the best hand in the house and walks off with the love jackpot every time?

To find out whether your gamble is likely to pay off, or leave you broken-hearted, do our revealing quiz. And discover if you are a loser in love.

1. How many boyfriends have you had?

- None?
- One?
- Two or three?
- Quite a few?
- Too many to count?

2. A new man walks into your life, sweeps you off your feet and then disappears. Do you:

- Do nothing, you are confident that he will find you?
- Feel terrible, it is happening again?
- Try and find him, you don't care how hard it is?
- Pledge never to trust men again?

3. How many of the following disasters have happened to you: being stood up, being dumped for another woman, being jilted, being ignored by the man of your dreams, being divorced, being dumped for another man, being taken for granted?

- None, you have been lucky?
- All, your love life is a disaster?
- One or two?
- Three or four?
- Five or six?

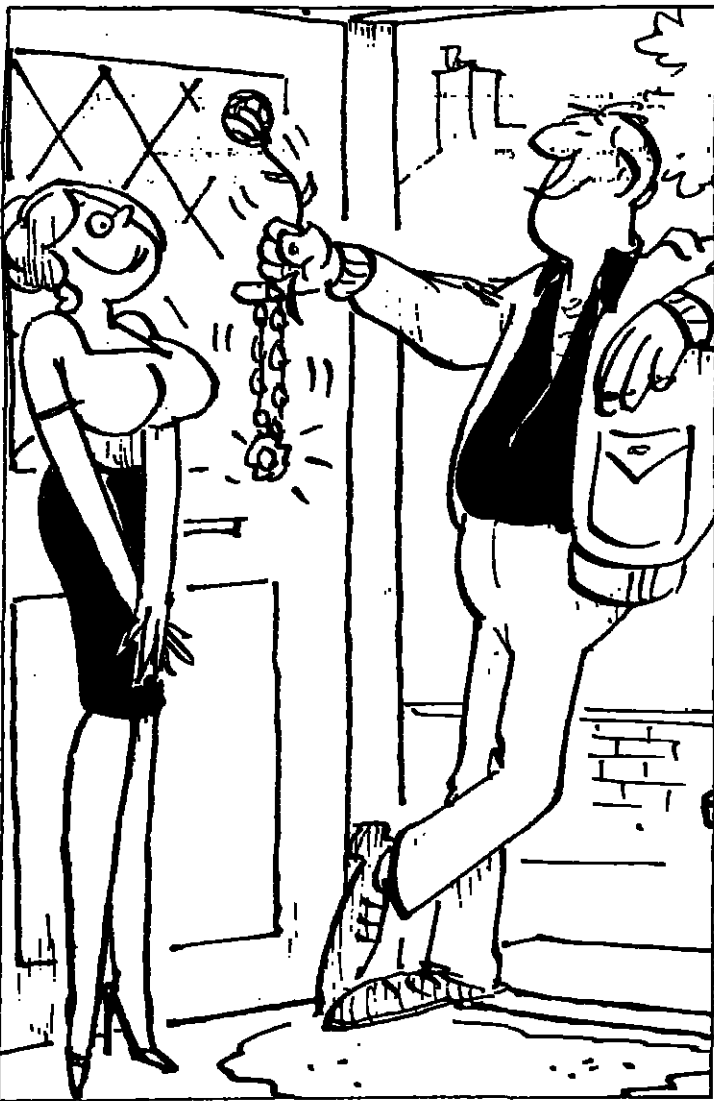
4. You are stood up by a boyfriend, what is likely to be the reason?

- A terrible accident, no one stands up?
- A problem at work, it is not normal?
- Anything from his cat being run over to his mother saying that he cannot go out. He normally has a good excuse?
- You don't date, so you couldn't get stood up?

5. At a party you are chatted up. What type of a man will he be?

- Lonely and desperate, who else would talk to you?
- Fun loving and fearless, he would have to have guts to approach you?

Are you the Queen of Hearts who always wins an ace? Or do you always get the joker, when you play in the love stakes? Do our quiz and find out.



d. Act casual, he is probably feeling the same way?

e. Make a fool of yourself, because of nerves?

9. What type of man are you really looking for:

- Reliable and trusting, the husbandly type?
- Handsome and fast living?
- Funny and friendly?
- Rich, is there any other type?

10. At work you meet a client who asks for dinner. What is he likely to be interested in:

- You?
- The business?
- Getting some sneaky information?
- It wouldn't happen?
- Nothing?

11. How would you best describe your love life:

- Non-existent?
- Brilliant, you live in the fast lane?
- Slow, but it does have its moments?
- Boring, but what more can you expect?
- Settled, you are happy?

12. After a whirlwind romance, he asks you to marry him. Do you:

- Jump at the chance?
- Say you want to remain friends?
- Think that he must be joking?
- Ask to have it in writing?
- Wake it, it must have been a dream?

13. You find out the man in your life has another woman. Do you:

- Beg him to leave her, you will try and be a better girlfriend/wife?
- Pack his suitcase?
- It wouldn't happen?
- Face him with it, in the hope that you can sort it out?
- Tell him — you or her?

14. He says that he wants to go to a party with his friends. Do you:

- Say great and go with yours?
- Ask if you can go too?
- Demand that he stay with you?
- Think that he must be taking another girl?
- Leave him, he cannot really love you?

15. In general, you think men are:

- Rais?
- Wonderful?
- Okay, if you keep them in their place?
- Like little boys?
- Normal human beings — most of the time?

- Friendly, you like talking to people?
- Drunk?
- Warm and chatty, a real ladykiller?
- You meet and fall for someone, but are told by a friend that he is married and has had affairs before. Do you:
- Tell him to take a running jump?
- See it as a challenge?
- Check out the details, to see if your friend is a real buddy or jealous?
- Confront him with it?
- Telephone his wife and tell her about him?
- How do you feel about yourself:
- Confident, you are attractive and intelligent?
- Shy, but you do warm to people?
- Unhappy, you have always been an outcast?
- Fat and ugly, you have a low opinion?
- Okay, you have what it takes?
- You are invited to a dinner party and know that somebody you fancy will be there. Do you:
- Refuse, what is the point at looking at something you can't have?
- Make a real effort to dress up and plan the evening?
- Ask the hostess to sit you next to him and really make a play?

What your score means

Now read your score:

0-90: You have lost in love so many times that you have given up trying. Bitter and twisted, you have learned to hate men and the women who have successful relationships.

Well, if you continue this way you will end up a lonely old maid. But remember, it is never too late for love and Mr Right could be just round the corner. All you have to do is to loosen

up and start to have fun — men are human beings too.

95-195: You have had your fair share of failed relationships and ego slammers, but you get up and go with life. Which goes to show that you will be a winner in love — even if it does take a little time.

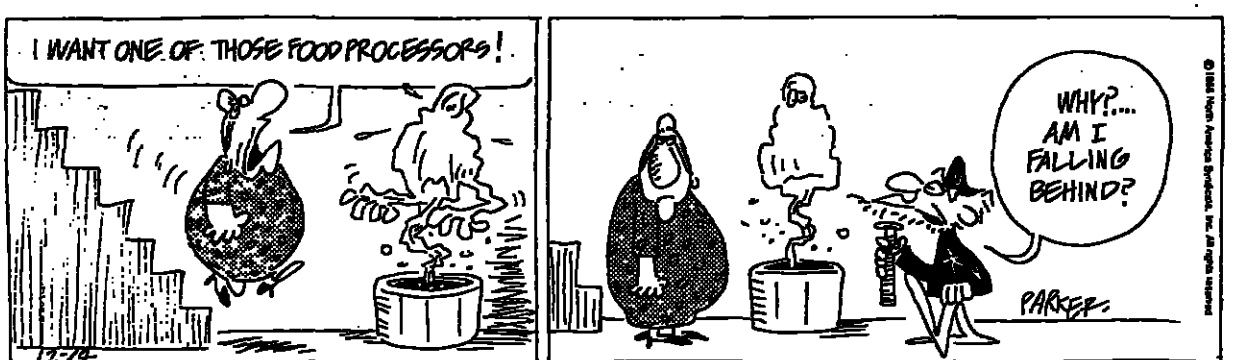
The golden rule is don't give up and if this relationship doesn't work out — try, try again.

200-300: Winner! You can't go wrong. You love men and they seem to love you. You believe in quantity rather than quality and are prepared to put yourself out to get the man you want.

One note of warning, spare a thought for when you are old. You may have found affairs are fun now, but you might want something more permanent for your old age.

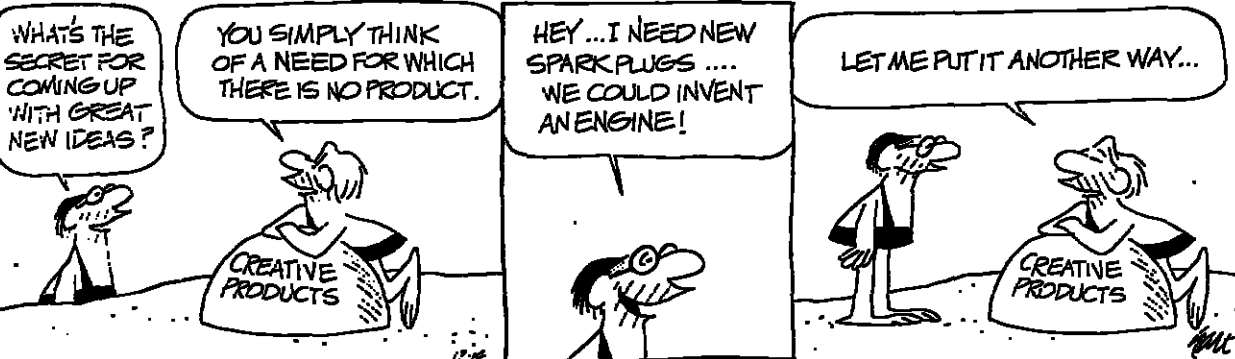
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be able to achieve better results than you first thought possible. Some small practical matter should not be altogether ignored. You should pay more attention to a personal matter. Be less impatient.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will have a great many ideas some of them readily applicable. You should not make a promise you will find hard to keep. You will have to make a few changes, but they will be for the better. Be sincere.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

The Moon's better influence will help you to make good progress with a new project. You will be able to do something that really interests you. You are more liable to make mistakes, so watch out. Be moderate.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)

You will be able to deal with an urgent matter. You should not allow others to stand in your way. Jupiter's better influence will help you to dispose of an obstacle. Be less obstinate.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You should try harder to keep those small expenses under control. You will be able to make good progress with a project at work. Beware of allowing yourself to be tricked. Be more amenable.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You would do well to use a little more commonsense and to avoid day dreaming. You will be able to do something to overcome other people's objections to one of your projects. Think again before deciding to go ahead with something you have in mind. Be true to your word.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Some small matter will take up more of your time and energy than you had reckoned. A skill you have learnt recently will stand you in good stead. You should avoid getting into an argument. Be benevolent.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

A cold or other small infection should be treated with due care, not neglected. The Moon's better influence will help you to deal with a rather irritating matter. You will know what is the right thing to do in the circumstances. Be magnanimous.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

The Moon's more favourable influence will help you in dealing with a personal matter. You will be better able to persuade others to your point of view. Something you have been expecting will not happen in the way you would have wished. Be firm.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You should restrain yourself from doing something a little far-fetched. Concentrate on catching up with an outstanding project. Have a little more faith in yourself. Be reliable.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

The Moon's influence will help you to cope with an unusual situation. You will be better able to maintain harmony with your partner. You will be able to get a move on. Be fair.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will tend to tire rather more easily so do vital things first. You should not allow work to prey on your mind, just get on with it. Do not make a nuisance of yourself. Be prudent.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WE always have time enough, if we will but use it right
— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German poet (1749-1832).

Thaw in India, Pakistan relations

By Michael Battye

ISLAMABAD, (Reuters): Pakistan and India have made a flying start to a new era of warmer relations, ushered in with words of high optimism by their two young leaders and the first agreement between the countries in 16 years.

After four decades of warfare and deep mistrust, hostility was remarkable by its absence when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, 44, arrived on the first visit to Pakistan by an Indian leader in 28 years to attend a South Asian summit.

After hours of private talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, 35, the two countries signed a pact promising not to attack each other's nuclear installations.

"An extremely important and significant step has been taken today to improve relations between India and Pakistan," Benazir told a joint news conference with Rajiv on Saturday.

Normalise
"I felt that there is definitely a mood on both sides to try and get things back on track and normalise the situation between our two countries," Rajiv said on arrival back in New Delhi.

The optimism, however, was tinged with caution and by political realities.

Memories of the bloodshed that accompanied the partition of British India when Pakistan and India became independent in 1947 are still strong on both sides of the border.

So are the memories of the three wars the two countries have fought, Pakistan humiliated in the last leaving territorial disputes in their wake.

And there are present day political constraints, especially on Benazir, which lend an air of caution to the burgeoning detente.

"Through the process of confidence-building measures we will step by step move towards the more intractable issues between us by removing the less intractable ones first," said Benazir in a clear message for people not to expect too much too soon.

Leading Indian foreign policy analyst Pran Chopra said it would be up to New Delhi, where hopes of better relations soared to almost euphoric levels after Benazir was appointed prime

minister following November elections, to show restraint.

"Nothing should be done by India which gives anyone in Pakistan the feeling that she has been invited into the Indian parlour and is feeling comfortable there," he said.

"I think that is the way it is being played," Chopra said. Benazir and her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won the most parliamentary seats in the elections, but not an overall majority.

Democracy
Her accession to power brought democracy back to Pakistan after 11 years of rule by President Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq, who died in a mysterious air crash in August.

The restoration of democracy was the cause of Indian optimism. Indian officials never made any secret of their profound distrust of Zia, whose Army they accused of fuelling a Sikh separatist revolt in India's Punjab.

Rajiv alluded to that mistrust on his arrival back in Delhi. "I can also say with confidence that we believe PPP policies will be much better than the earlier policies on the more difficult areas," he said.

But Pakistan officials said that with no absolute majority in parliament, an Army only just out of power looking over her shoulder, and her position as a woman leader in a Muslim state meaning she had to be careful not to offend male Islamic sensibilities, Benazir could not move without caution.

"It has to be a step by step process, quiet and cautious," said one.

Odds
Apart from the Punjab separatist campaign, which cost more than 2,500 lives in 1988, India is also at deep odds with Pakistan over divided Kashmir, the cause of two of the three wars and which both sides claim.

There is also sporadic fighting over the Siachen Glacier, at 6,000 metres (20,000 feet) high in the Himalayas the world's highest battlefield.

Officials of both sides say they want that problem solved soon and say so in almost the same words. "Never mind the shooting, our boys are dying up there from the cold and that's a stupid waste," was one typical comment.

Scandals tarnish image

Time to cure Japanese 'money politics'

By Larry Thorson

TOKYO, (AP): A stock-profiteering scandal has boosted political reform to the top of the national agenda, but it probably will be months before it's clear whether Japan's traditional "money politics" will change significantly.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, vowing to tighten political discipline, formed a new cabinet on Tuesday with 15 new members out of 20. But the balance of political factions was unchanged, and the leadership of his Liberal Democratic Party stayed the same even though two of the top three party positions are held by men tainted by scandal.

Media commentators were virtually unanimous in saying the cabinet reshuffle did not cure the "Recruit scandal."

"It is regrettable that we cannot feel any hope for a change," the Asahi Shimbun said in an editorial Wednesday. The newspaper, which took a leading role in uncovering the scandal, noted that many prominent politicians

who profited by receiving shares in a Recruit Co. subsidiary stayed in power.

"We are concerned that they will cover for each other in any probe of the scandal," the paper said.

The affair has tarnished Japan's international image, and the new justice minister, Takeshi Hasegawa, 76, told a news conference Tuesday that the public was losing confidence in politics, business and public officials.

Tarnish
"For Japan to be trusted in the international arena, we have to start with establishing a trustworthy political system," Hasegawa said.

But within 24 hours, Hasegawa was revealed to have received regular donations from Recruit Co., including a donation in October when the scandal was front-page news every day. Over 12 years, his political organization got 5.76 million yen (\$46,000 at current rates) from Recruit, Hasegawa confirmed in a post-midnight news conference.

The donations to Hasegawa were legal and quite different from the stock transactions in a Recruit subsidiary that put many politicians in hot water, but the belated revelation showed how wide the Recruit scandal goes.

Sold
The scandal began unfolding last summer with revelations that the founder of the Recruit conglomerate, Hiromasa Ezoe, had sold bargain-priced shares in a real-estate subsidiary called Recruit-Cosmos to politicians or their aides, business leaders and media figures before the shares were listed.

Often the purchases were financed by loans from another Recruit subsidiary. When the shares were listed in October 1986 and the price doubled, the shareholders sold, making profits in some cases equivalent to more than \$150,000 tax-free.

The transactions were not illegal under securities law, but it is widely assumed that Ezoe was seeking business advantage and prestige. The astounding scope of the scandal brought suspicion of something approaching wide-

spread bribery.

Ex-Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa heads the roster of 17 politicians and business leaders who resigned because of the scandal, and a former Recruit official pleaded guilty to trying to bribe an opposition Diet (parliament) member to soft-pedal his probe of the affair.

Threats
Though Takeshita's poll ratings are sharply down, his Conservative Party is the most firmly entrenched ruling party among the capitalist democracies, having been in power since World War II with the exception of 10 months of a socialist cabinet in 1947-48.

Japan has become an economic superpower under the Liberal Democrats, who fostered conditions for growth, helped troubled industries to modernize and promoted exports—earning gratitude that the business world pays back with generous donations.

Thus "money politics" developed, causing a huge scandal in the 1970s in the time of Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka,

who eventually was convicted of taking a bribe equivalent to \$1.7 million from the US aircraft-maker Lockheed.

The Liberal Democrats won 304 of 524 seats in the powerful lower house in the 1986 election, but they still run scared at election time, and the political appetite for money is ever-growing.

Multiple-seat
The electoral system has multi-seat constituencies, meaning several Liberal Democrats may run for the same seat and each candidate will need lots of money.

Politicians also lament that they are victimized by the Japanese custom of generous gift-giving, and they need money far beyond their salary and expense allowance to give lavishly at constituents' weddings and funerals.

Takeshita, who is touched by the scandal through an aide having profited from Recruit-Cosmos shares, told a news conference last week he is setting short, medium—and long-term goals on improving political eth-

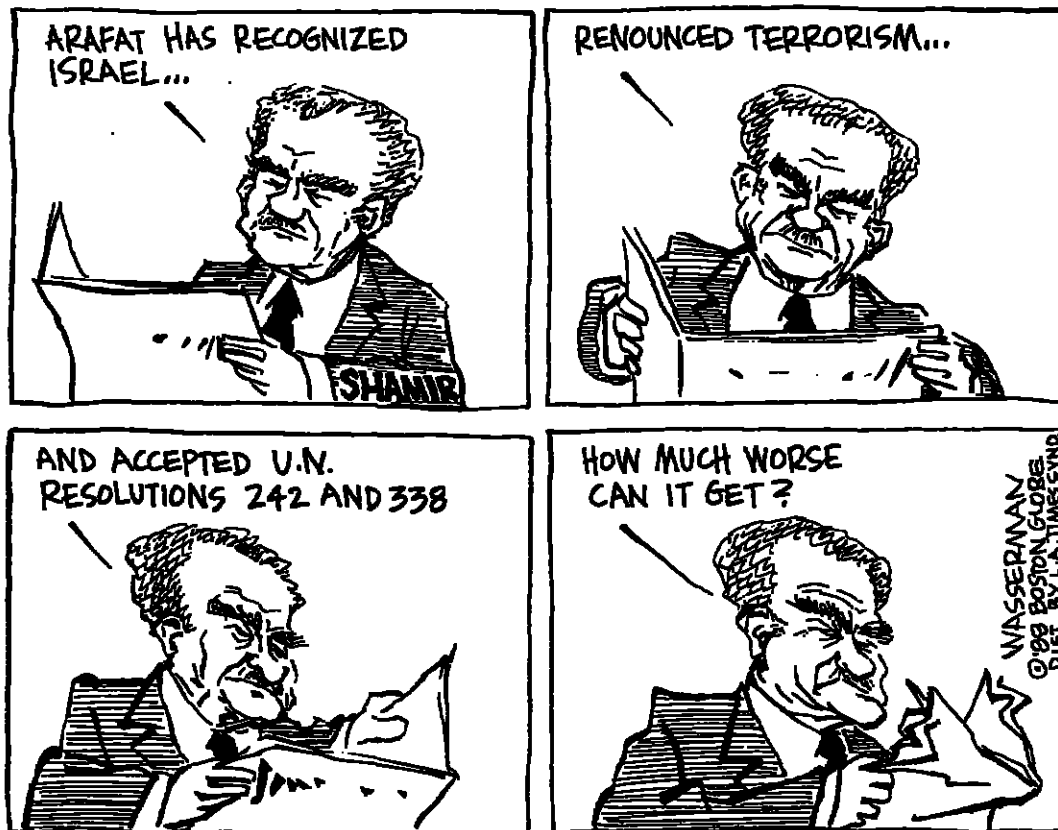
ics, with the election calendar in mind.

Before next summer's election of half the upper house of the Diet, he said, some progress will be made, and he hoped for more in 1990.

The prime minister said reform committees will deal with political donations as well as fund-raising parties, and they also would take a long-term look at the election system.

Support
"I support the idea that political reform is at the base of all problems," he said. "Each politician, including myself, must always take into account an ethical platform. If each one takes precautions, I believe this will be reflected in daily government affairs. But it is first necessary to create the environment to make this possible."

Analyst Garrett N. Scallan, president of the Tokyo Institute of Policy Studies, said he expected the Diet would outlaw dubious donations like Recruit-style sales of prelisted shares, but he thought reform would end there.



By Stephen R. Wilson

TUNIS, Tunisia, (AP): There are no big office complexes, residential compounds or commando training camps.

In fact, there are no obvious signs that Tunis is the headquarters of Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization and finding the organization's offices can require a search.

In spite of its enhanced image as a partner in Middle East peace dialogue with the United States, the PLO maintains a discreet and unobtrusive presence in the Tunisian capital.

As one Western diplomat put it, "there's no swag about it."

With Arafat often away, the PLO presence consists of several political offices in inconspicuous houses scattered around the city, a few dozen officials and a total Palestinian population of about 1,000.

The PLO political headquarters is akin to a head without a body, separated by 1,500 miles (2,400 kms) from the land it seeks for an independent Palestinian state. The PLO presence in Tunis is minuscule compared to the 3 million Palestinians living in Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Home
"Tunis is not home really," said Khaled Bahig, who works in the PLO's Information Department. "It's very far from our people. It's not like Lebanon, Jordan or Syria. Here we are just working in our offices. We are not really working among the Palestinian people. But from the political point of view, we have a lot to do."

The PLO moved its headquarters to Tunis in August 1982 after being driven out of Beirut by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Tunisia's president at the time, Habib Bourguiba, had always been a staunch supporter of the Palestinian movement.

More than 1,000 PLO fighters who came here from Lebanon were temporarily stationed at a camp in the hills west of Tunis. The camp was closed in 1985 and the fighters moved on to Iraq, Algeria, Sudan, Yemen and Lebanon. The PLO says it has no more military presence here.

Part of the reason for the PLO's low profile in Tunis is the threat from its enemies.

In October 1985, Israeli jets streaked across the Mediterranean and bombed Arafat's residence, administrative office and the homes of several PLO officials in the seaside suburb of Hammam Plage. At least 61 Palestinians and 12 Tunisians were killed in the raid.

The PLO still maintains a small administrative office in a

PLO headquarters almost invisible in Tunis

run-down building at the site, located on a gravel road marked by a blue sign "Avenue of the Martyrs of Oct 1985."

Last April, PLO military commander Khalil Al Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, was assassinated in his home near Carthage. The PLO blamed Israel's Mossad secret service. The Tunisian government said Israel was responsible.

Today, the house is shuttered. Two posters of Wazir are pasted on the front door and a Palestinian flag is taped to a window on the second floor.

Tunis is more of a rest stop than a permanent base for the PLO top brass.

Secret
Arafat is constantly on the move. When he does stop in Tunis, it is usually for a short time and his whereabouts are secret. It is said that he never sleeps in the same bed twice for fear of assassination by Israeli agents or radical Palestinian opponents.

Still, Tunis serves as a type of proxy PLO capital and it is here that the United States' new policy toward the PLO is being carried out.

It was the US Ambassador in Tunis, Robert H. Pelletreau Jr., who opened the "dialogue" with the PLO on Dec 16, ending a 13-year ban on official contact with the organization.

The move came after Arafat met the US conditions for talks by renouncing terrorism, recognizing Israel's right to exist and accepting UN resolutions which recognize the right of all Middle East nations to safe and secure borders.

The PLO is seeking an international peace conference on the Middle East, withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and creation of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Israel has refused to negotiate with the PLO, calling it a terrorist organization.

Talks
The US-PLO talks here were arranged through the organization's political department, a sort of PLO diplomatic centre and the headquarters of Farouk Kaddoumi, often referred to as the PLO's foreign minister.

ambassador parked in front.

Inside, the director-general of the department, Abdelatif Abu Hajlaj, and other officials are dressed smartly in business suits, not the military uniform and checkered headress worn by Arafat.

The walls are lined with posters hailing the intifada, the uprising by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that has helped bring the Palestinian issue to the forefront of international attention.

"We have no choice but to be here," said Ribhi Awad, assistant to Kaddoumi. "We are trying to follow up our political activities."

Hospitable
"Tunis is a nice country," he added, stopping for a moment to examine a telex and take a phone call from an Indonesian journalist calling from Jakarta to request an interview with Arafat.

"The people are hospitable, the government is not interfering in our activities. We should be grateful that."

A few hundred yards (metres) away on an unpaved, dead-end street that Tunisian taxi drivers often have difficulty finding is the PLO's Information Department, a simple house that serves as the office of PLO spokesman Ahmed Abdul-Rahman.

The normal calm of the neighbourhood was shattered last Saturday when dozens of Western journalists descended on the house and Arafat arrived in a convoy of 10 cars with heavily-armed bodyguards to hold a news conference.

Pressure on Iran to do more to cement ties with the West

By Eric Hall

DUBAI, (Reuters): Iran's release of a jailed Briton is the first fruit of renewed ties with London but Tehran is under pressure to do more to cement relations with the outside world, Western diplomats in the Gulf said.

Since the August ceasefire in the Gulf war, Tehran has moved fast to reopen doors which were slammed after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and during its eight-year war with Iraq.

Iran has renewed diplomatic ties with France, Canada and Britain and has proffered the olive branch to Gulf Arab states. Briton Nicholas Nicola, arrested two years ago for illegally entering Iran and being in possession of two weapons, was released last week.

Another Briton, Roger Cooper, is still imprisoned for alleged spying.

Britain and Iran said Nicola's release was a major step for warming relations, but diplomats said Iran still faced a profound credibility in the eyes of Arab states and neighbouring Arab nations.

"They are having difficulty living down their past," said one Western diplomat.

The diplomats said this tendency to expect the worst of Iran was reflected most recently after the crash of a Pan Am airliner in Scotland on Dec 21 when an

anonymous caller told Western news agencies that a little-known terrorist group linked to Iran was responsible.

Iranian officials moved quickly to deny this and affirmed that Iran stood against terrorism.

But events in Iran's recent past still sit uneasily in the minds of many and give even valid allegations the power to harm Iran's new image, said Western diplomats.

Such incidents as the 1979 detention of US hostages in Tehran and the 1983 destruction of US Marine headquarters in Beirut by Iranian-linked bombers remain major blocks to improved trust from Washington's point of view, they said.

Pro-Iranian radicals are believed to be holding most of the 17 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

When an Iranian gunboat stopped a British tanker in the Gulf last month to check its

papers, there was immediate concern that Iran could be showing its military muscle again in sea lanes which only months earlier were lit by burning tankers. The incident proved to be a misunderstanding.

But divisions in Iran are as much a threat to its diplomatic initiatives as are the views about its intentions.

The threat is partly due to a

continued split in the government between those who wish to come out of isolation and those who wish to sustain the ideals of the revolution, diplomats said.

"There is still a little pushing and shoving going on in Tehran. The hardliners are still in the picture," said a Western diplomat.

In Baghdad, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, Iran's new image is still being tested. Iran's relations with some other Gulf states were severely strained by attacks on their shipping during the war and by suggestions that Iran was linked to a sabotage attempt in Bahrain and Kuwait.

But last month members of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, made it clear they wanted better relations with Iran.

When all the diplomatic niceties are resolved, the focus returns to deadlocked peace talks with Iraq.

While the guns on the Gulf war fronts have been silent for more than four months, they are still in place and could be rapidly brought to action should the fragile ceasefire break down.

For those in power in the region and many nations beyond its borders, the thought of preventing a renewed Gulf war is a major spur to fostering relations with Iran.

US sanctions policy in Panama begins to backfire

By Katherine King

PANAMA CITY, (Reuters): US economic sanctions against Panama aimed at ousting military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega are showing signs of backfiring, alienating US friends while failing to achieve their goal.

Panama's Archbishop Marcos McGrath this week called the sanctions immoral, Panamanian employees of the Panama Canal blasted them as psychological warfare and US businessmen are saying they will lobby against them in Washington.

Even ousted President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who was due to meet with the President Reagan on Thursday, is reported to be pushing Washington to at least partially lift the measures.

The sanctions were meant to force Noriega, a former US ally, to step down by strangling the flow of money to his government and weakening the general's hold on power.

But Noriega, who has been

indicted on drug smuggling charges in the United States, has consolidated his power and now even appears to be considering running as a candidate for president in May elections.

The sanctions, particularly a ban on tax payments to the government, have begun affecting US interests.

This week, spokesmen for the 7,000 Panamanian employees of the Panama Canal said they would sue the US government for damages if they lost property due to the sanctions.

The sanctions prevent taxes withheld from workers' salaries by the Canal Commission, a US government agency, from being turned over to the Panamanian government as stipulated in the canal treaties.

Since the employees' taxes have not been paid, the Panamanian government has threatened to confiscate cars, furniture and even houses from the canal employees.

In a news conference, the employees accused Washington and Panama of using them as "instruments in a psychological war."

Threats
Dennis McAuliffe, Canal Commission administrator, said in an interview he was "very concerned" about Panamanian threats to confiscate property but admitted he did not see any quick change in the sanctions policy.

"The (Panamanian) government wants to turn the employees against us and that's beginning to happen," McAuliffe said.

"It's entirely possible that this could eventually lead to some sort of job action," he said. As US government employees the canal workers are not allowed to strike.

Even so, the effectiveness of the tax ban is doubtful. Yearly taxes from 16,000 Panamanian employees of the canal and the Defence Department amount to only about \$30 million.

In addition, private US companies appear to have found legal loopholes in the sanctions. Several have begun paying employees their gross salaries, leaving them with the responsibility for paying their own taxes.

"Private sector taxes being withheld from Panamanian employees of American companies would only amount to about \$4 million a year—if it was being withheld, but a lot of it isn't," one private economist said.

Nevertheless, the sanctions have battered Panama's economy. The government has stopped all internal and international debt payments and can barely meet its employee payroll.

A White House spokesman this week said the sanctions were effective, "tightening the money flow to the Noriega regime, causing him problems."

But as pressure increases, government officials say they are even more determined not to give in to US demands.

"Yes, the economy is in a decline. We may soon be at the level of Biafra. But at least we will be free," Commerce Minister Mario Rognoni told Reuters in a recent interview.

Economists here say the decline could go on for months or years and still never reach the flashpoint Washington hoped would oust Noriega.

But despite all the pressure to do away with sanctions, Washington seems unlikely to do so.

In a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce here last week, US Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis praised US businessmen for their "sacrifices" and said President-elect Bush "will not be any more inclined to let up the pressures for change."

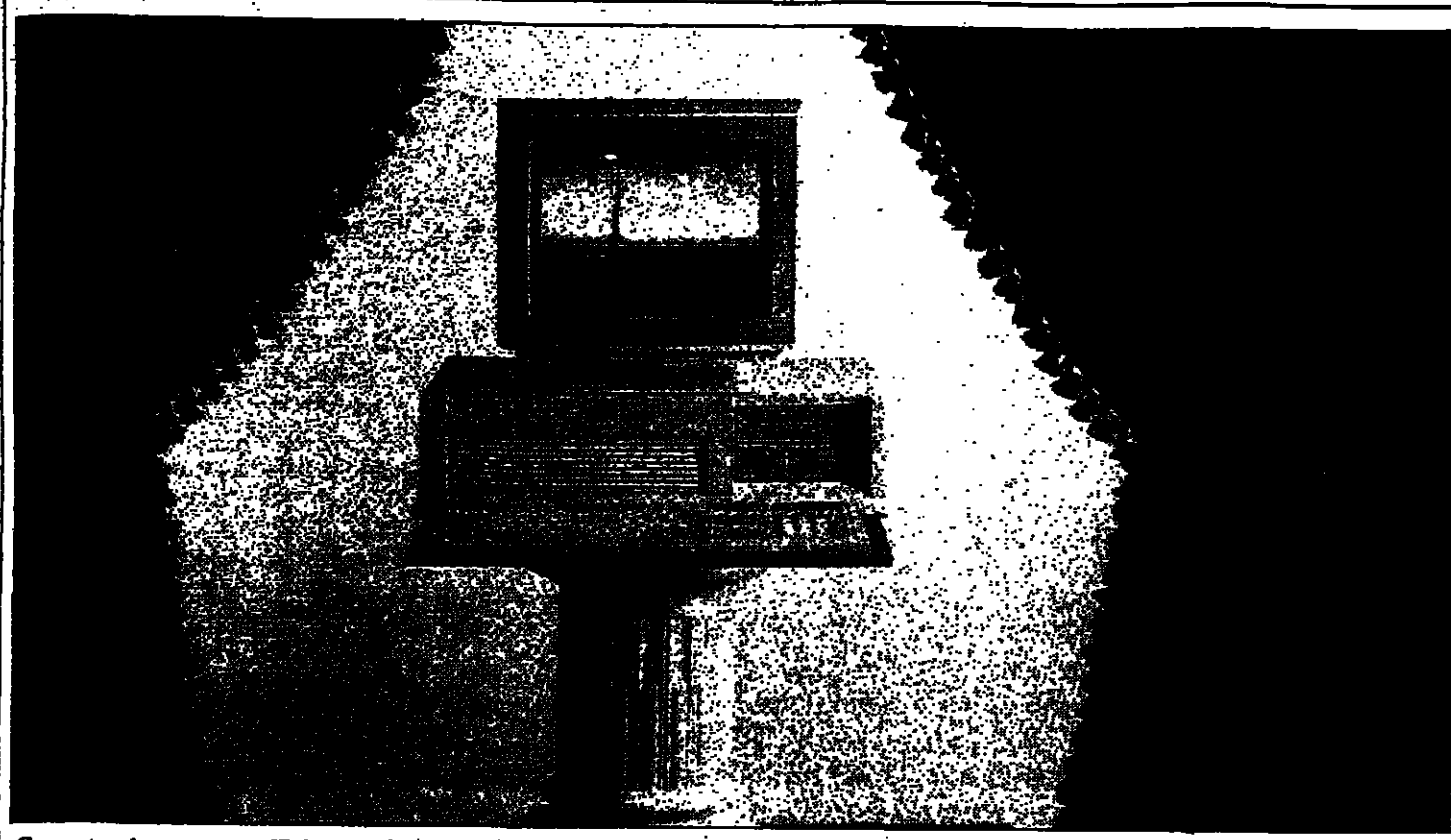
Unconvinced, representatives of the US business group are already planning a trip to Washington in January to lobby for the sanctions to be lifted.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1762—Britain declares war against Spain and Naples.
- 1797—Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Austrians at Rivoli, Italy.
- 1825—Ferdinand I of Naples dies, is succeeded by Francis I.
- 1908—Mulai Hafid is proclaimed Sultan of Morocco at Fez.
- 1919—Russian Bolsheviks capture Riga, Latvia.
- 1932—Japanese forces reach Shanhaikwan on Great Wall of China; Indian government introduces emergency powers as Indian National Congress is declared illegal and Mahatma Gandhi is arrested.
- 1938—British postpone plan for partition of Palestine.
- 1944—Allied forces launch attack east of Cassino, Italy, in World War II.
- 1948—Union of Burma becomes independent republic.
- 1951—North Korean and communist Chinese forces take Seoul, Korea.
- 1959—Disturbances break out at Leopoldville, Belgian Congo.
- 1972—Pakistan seeks talks with India after war that resulted in East Pakistan becoming independent state of Bangladesh.
- 1973—Montreal Museum of Fine Arts is robbed of \$2 million worth of art, including a Rembrandt valued at \$1 million.
- 1988—Palestinians clash with Israeli soldiers in flurry of protests in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

COMPUTERS AND OFFICE AUTOMATION

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT



Computers increase our efficiency and productivity, but should we place them on a pedestal to the exclusion of everything else?

Are computers a good thing?

COMPUTERS are a boon, right? They came along just at the right time to help us manage the ever-growing complexity of our lives, right? They increase our efficiency and productivity and generally help us appear like super-beings to the lesser mortals who haven't bought this yet, right?

Wrong. Or at least, not entirely right. Computers can sometimes be the cause of lower efficiency, lower productivity and often make "lesser mortals" feel very superior to us.

How can this be? We've been exhorted from all quarters to buy the things. The sales and marketing staff of hardware and software companies alike never tire of extolling the virtues of their latest this-or-the-other bit of hardware or software. They spend millions trying (and succeeding) to influence us.

The net effect of all this activity has been to anesthetise our critical faculties. Most of us unquestioningly believe that computers must be "a good thing."

Used properly, they are. The danger lies in losing sight of the real world in favour of the controllable, manipulable electronic world inside the computer. I have seen eight-year-old "computer junkies" who'd rather spend a day programming than flying a kite or kicking a ball around with their friends. They preferred mastery over an electronic box to learning mastery over real life.

I've seen accountants whose whole world revolves around the current spreadsheet of their

A leading computer industry columnist David Tebbutt, whose words of wisdom have graced the pages of major computer publications over the years, imparts the fruits of his experience with the world of the electronic box.



company's activities. They forget that the spreadsheet is rarely the "real world" — it takes on life of its own and, unless disciplined, the spreadsheet user can easily lose track of which bits are real and, worst of all, what's actually happening out there in the real company. A friend of mine, an accountant in a very large conglomerate, recently confessed his despair that so many of his colleagues had mistaken all-day sessions on their spreadsheet for real work. They'd lost

sight of what the company was in business for.

And I've been just as guilty. I once had the bright idea of putting everything to do with my life and my work into my computer. I could keep tabs on every last little detail and within a week or two had become as dependent on my machine as any drug addict is on a regular fix. The problems came when I was away from the computer. Things would happen and I would forget to key them in when I got back. Gradually, the computer became less and less representative of my life.

Printing out regular "life models" was an inconvenient and time-consuming business, so I even took to wandering around with out-of-date models in my briefcase. They at least gave the illusion of control.

The result of all this was a marked increase in efficiency for the items that were in the model, countered by zero efficiency on those that weren't. In short, if it wasn't in the computer or on paper, it was as if external reality had ceased to exist. The end didn't justify the means — the latter became the former.

The crunch for me came when I overlooked my wife's birthday because it wasn't in the model. Now, I use the computer for keeping track of specific projects, while a Filofax takes care of the broader picture. I have modified my word processor and my ideas organiser to output material in Filofax-sized pages and I now regularly use that ultimate novelty for a computer freak — a PEN! So now I have the best of both worlds.

The moral of the story is: at the end of the day, we are all human beings. We operate in a society in which meaningful interaction is essential. Locking ourselves away in electronic isolation is no substitute for facing up to the challenges of the real world.

Your computer is a tool and, used as such, can truly improve your lot. Don't forget though, that what's inside that machine can only ever be a tiny fragment of reality. We forget this at our peril.



By Yvette Stachowiak.

RULE Number 1 — Computer manuals can be poorly written.

In fact, they can be so poorly written that computer journalists make money by writing books that explain what the computer manuals were trying to tell you in the first place.

Most manuals are written by technicians who assume a large amount of prior knowledge on the part of their readers. If you don't understand what the manual is trying to tell you, look in reference books, magazines or query the company that sold you the product. If the above doesn't work, then scream. This won't help, but by gum, do you feel a lot better.

Rule Number 2 — Computers always encourage the use of a foreign language.

This is not to say you will become proficient in Spanish in 10 weeks. This foreign language is known as "computerese". It can provoke those unfamiliar with computer talk into an array of physical symptoms which include rolling eyes, an uncontrollable shrugging of the shoulders and a general shuffling of the feet in the

Some golden rules on computing ...

direction of the nearest door. The psychological effects are more profound. People who have not been exposed to computerese will believe their IQ is on par with that of a banana and a crushing sense of incompetence will prevail.

This is too bad. Computerese is a language solely used by boffins, journalists, manufacturers and technicians, usually accompanied by a superior smirk. You may think it is impressive to throw around words such as RAM, ROM and modems in an everyday conversation. Don't — those in the know usually use simple terminology to describe the bits and pieces of their computer. This is to prevent alienation among the 90 per cent of the population who wouldn't know a hard disk from their elbow.

And, funnily enough, everyday users probably don't know or care if their computer

has enough ROM to launch a Minuteman Missile. All they want to know is: does my computer work properly and if not, who can I throttle?

Rule Number 3 — Computers don't eat words.

There is a prevailing belief that computers subsist on words or figures written on their screens, especially if work dramatically disappears. This concept contrasts with other academics who maintain psychic forces are at work. Unlike washing machines which always eat your best socks, there is no scientific proof that computers are nourished by letters or numbers. An electrical current is usually sufficient for the care and feeding of your computer.

The all-important rule should help you avoid the typical symptoms of a frustrated user which include a great desire to tear out hair, issue loud cries of anger and

consider shipping the computer to the your favourite enemy with a big "Enjoy!" sign attached to the front of it. Unfortunately, you will find that sarcasm is a useless technique as your computer will work perfectly in its new environment.

Rule Number 4 — Computers "break down" — especially when you are facing a deadline.

Admittedly, a computer "breaking down" (ie. your text evaporates, or worse yet, your splendid business graphics suddenly have an uncanny resemblance to a stick man you drew when you were three years old), is a relatively rare occurrence. Other terminology describing the same event includes: blowing up, hanging up, going up the spout or going down.

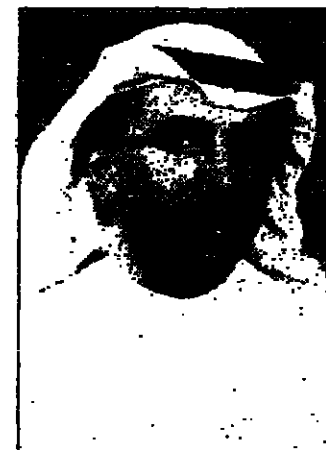
It is interesting to note that all of these terms describe vertical movements. However, there is no proven resemblance between a computer and a lift.

If your computer does something completely out of character, don't assume this change in behaviour will go away. Exit the programme and turn the machine off. Turn the machine

Continued on Page 11

Computer power grows in Kuwait

The National Computer and Microfilm Centre in Kuwait is the largest computer centre in the Middle East. Shamim Zaidi talked to the man in charge of the whole show, Sulaiman Al Zayed.



Sulaiman Al Zayed: head of the National Computer and Microfilm Centre

"KUWAIT can now look forward to entering the next century with the confidence of a highly advanced nation, as far as the use of computers is concerned," says Sulaiman Al Zayed, head of the National Computer and Microfilm Centre (NCMC), Kuwait.

He took over the job in July 1987 when he was appointed Assistant Undersecretary, Ministry of Planning, which runs the NCMC.

Kuwait has always been in the forefront, in computerisation, says Al Zayed with the pride and confidence symbolic of the new generation of bureaucracy of Kuwait.

"Kuwait began computerisation as early as 1965; and in 1989 is the largest computer centre in the Middle East. We have an IBM 3090 Model 400E, something which even ARAMCO have not yet acquired. You just can not imagine what goes on here at this centre, we are doing a thousand things ... really using the power of the computer," said Al Zayed.

Statistical

The government of Kuwait established the NCMC as a part of the Central Statistics Office in 1965 with its original name, the Government Computer Centre (GCC) and its first task was to handle statistical information related to the 1965 census and foreign trade. "At that time we used the unit record machines, tabulators and sorters," said Al Zayed.

In 1967 the computer centre was shifted to its first independent site at the Ministry of Public Works premises, where the first computer, the IBM 1440 was installed.

In 1968 the computer centre acquired the IBM 360, Model 30 and was operating under the DOS operating system control.

In 1973 the IBM 370 Model 135 was installed and it was due to this switch that enabled the centre to use power for integrated spooling of input and output.

However, this computer was replaced in 1975 with a more powerful IBM 370 Model 158 which was ultimately operating under DOS and OS/VS1.

This was the time when the Government Computer Centre started to make real and rapid progress and more and more ministries started to join the process of computerising their jobs.

Transformed

This increased the work load at the Computer Centre and necessitated the addition of another IBM 370 Model 158 in 1977. By that time the Government Computer Centre had been transformed into a huge computer installation with a very large number of remote users.

In 1980 both these machines were replaced by an IBM 3033 (which was operating under OS/VS2) and other computer IBM 4341 was also installed for VM and DOS users.

In 1986 the centre acquired the huge IBM 3090, Model 200, which increased computing power threefold. This new computer was installed in the new premises of NCMC which is situated in the new Ministry of Planning building.

In a few years, a modest computer installation has been transformed into a huge, most modern, most powerful and the

largest computer installation in the Middle East, says Al Zayed.

Regarding the current state of NCMC, Al Zayed says that it owns the only IBM 3090 Model 400E in the Middle East. "This is a huge machine, with 4 processors and 256 mega bytes operating memory and is capable of compiling 60 million instructions per second."

According to Al Zayed 120 telephone lines and about 1000 screens are connected to this computer. Its storage capacity at the moment is 175 gigabytes and the computer centre is printing 504 million lines per year which means that almost 1.4 million lines are printed every day.

Besides VM and Batch applications, the users of NCMC computers, work in 4 interactive environments (TSO, IMS, COMPLETE AND CICS) in three DATA BASE Systems (IMS, DB2 and ADABAS). Altogether there are about 180,000 interactive transactions processed every day.

Massive

In addition to this, there is an IBM 4341 to operate its VM environment. All this gives you an idea about the massive equipment this installation has, says Al Zayed.

Regarding the manpower and the activities of NCMC, Al Zayed maintains that there are 410 people working 24 hours a day (in 4 shifts). Out of this 50 per cent are Kuwaitis. NCMC is looking after all the application systems of the Kuwait government, which have nationwide importance, such as payroll of all the government employees, electricity bills for

Ministry of Electricity and Water, telephone bills for Ministry of Communication, personal information of all the government employees, control of the Israel boycott, government stores system etc.

"At the moment," says Al Zayed "we are not only maintaining the existing government applications but are developing more than 32 new applications for various ministries. We are also concentrating on computerising the work of the Ministry of Planning as well. This by itself is a big job as it involves many systems such as budget monitoring, registration follow-up, archiving and employees entry-exit system besides computerising the 5 year plan."

Another important application which the NCMC is currently working on is a system for Kuwait's Civil Aviation Authority, and also a National Library System, which will be based at the New National Library of Kuwait whereby all the libraries in the country will be connected so that anyone looking for a par-

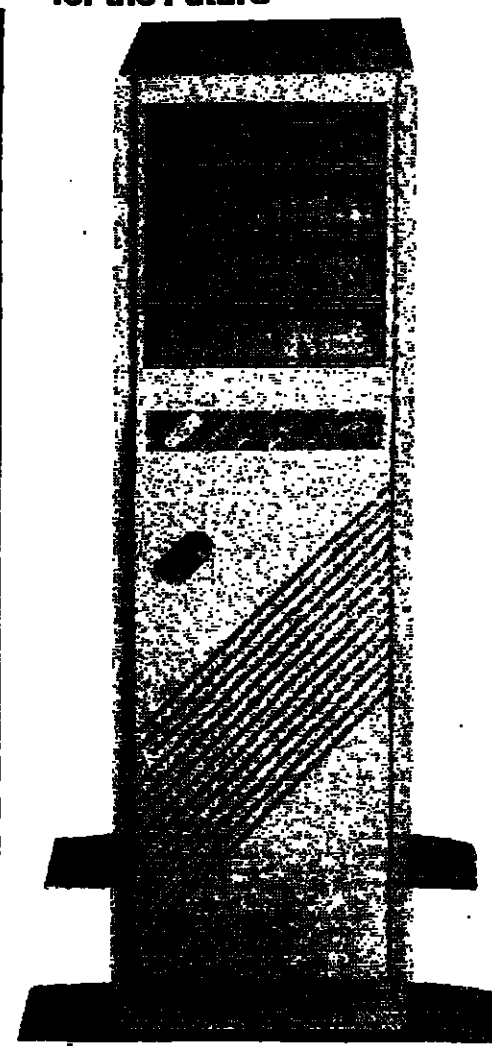
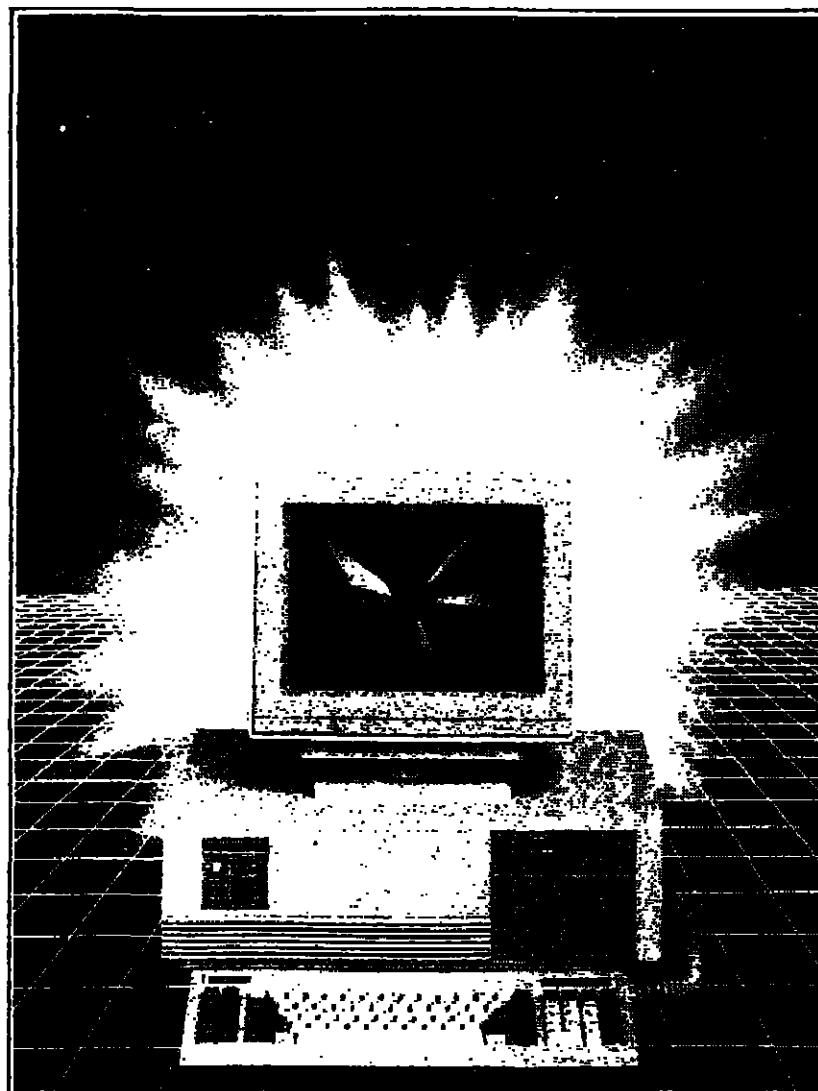
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Computer aids in teaching Shakespeare

Putting byte into the bard

By Ruth Youngblood

SINGAPORE (UPI)—English teacher Steven Herbert spends every night poring over William Shakespeare's plays, searching for gore, ghosts and violence.

Determined to inject adventure into the tedious mastery of the tragedies, the enterprising Herbert has found in the dramas perfect fodder for video games.

"The kids sweat blood and tears trying to understand the language, plot lines and characters," Herbert said. "Now they're learning and having some fun." With Macbeth standard reading for the college-bound, Herbert is putting the saga of ruthless ambition onto an absorbing disk.

Drawing on such characters as the three witches with their supernatural powers and predictions, the evil Macbeth and his murderous wife, Herbert hopes to entice even those stumped by the Bard.

Herbert, who taught in New Zealand for 10 years before coming to Singapore's huge Bedok North Secondary School three years ago, has found "Shakespeare is never easy reading for teenagers. They approach the plays with trepidation."

Elizabethan English is a special nightmare for Singaporeans who speak Chinese, Malay or Indian at home, with English a second language.

"I was so nervous about the plays I couldn't think about anything else," said Noorul-hudud Yusuf, 15. "The possibility of enjoying them didn't even occur to me."

While plowing through the texts line-by-line assured basic comprehension, Herbert said of the traditional method that, "instead of generating enthusiasm, Shakespeare was becoming a bore."

Herbert is changing that perception with video games that are entertaining and educational. His latest project includes a selection called "Save Macbeth from the witches' cauldron." When a student keys in an incorrect response to a question, Macbeth is unceremoniously dumped into the brew, Herbert said.

Such amusements as "Quotation Quiz" and "missing words" also may ease the burden of memorization, Herbert said, inspiring students to spontaneously delve back into the play when baffled.

"The challenge is not to fill the screen with dull text, but present it in a graphically exciting way," Herbert said, adding that the task is made easier in Macbeth with its preponderance of mayhem and murder.

"Kids like to read about violence and the supernatural and 'Macbeth' has it all," he said.

Since the exams require memorization of the major speeches plus detailed knowledge of the themes and personalities, Herbert said he is coming up with a menu to "help students painlessly learn what they must know" with some tantalizing extras thrown in to motivate further Shakespearean exploration on their own.

Karmal Razak, 15, said he has been "memorizing entire passages I could remember" and on his own has read King Lear and the Taming of the Shrew.

Herbert, 37, spent a year to complete his first video game on Julius Caesar, the drama climaxing with the brutal stabbing of the emperor. An admitted novice at computer programming, Herbert said he would dash to the nearest computer store for help from the patient proprietor.

"It was so painful watching students struggling through Shakespeare I figured I had to try something new," he said.

The first video has been such a success that youngsters cannot wait for breaks to crowd into the school's computer room to match wits with their peers.

It has been distributed to other secondary schools in Singapore and 400 new Shakespeare buffs have purchased the \$2 programme from a computer school. Requests have also come from the United States and Australia.

Educators, delighted with the unexpected burst of enthusiasm over Julius Caesar, suggested Herbert include even

more detailed information in the Macbeth video game. Herbert finished the action-oriented, two-disk game last month.

To keep the Shakespeare games informative even when tackled over and over again by the same participants, Herbert said he included many questions. Interspersed are summaries of each scene and guides to the language.

A colourful timeline highlights personal and professional milestones in Shakespeare's life, and there are illustrations of the Globe Theatre, where Macbeth was performed in 1610.

"Reading Shakespeare shouldn't be agony," Herbert said. "The games instill excitement and that's what it's all about."

Al Mulla expands customer base service

THE Computer & Electronics Systems Services (CESSD) at Bader Mulla & Bros. Co was established in 1983. Since its inception, the division has been providing services to the Bader Al Mulla Group of Companies and to the Kuwaiti market: government ministries, private companies and individuals.

Its major activity has been in the sale and support of the IBM Personal Computers. Although the division was established in 1983, it was not totally functional until 1985 and in the past three years, the company has developed large customer base, and sold over 800 PCs.

One of the companies strong points is the after sales services, that it provides its customers.

Another is its foresight. A few years ago, when some

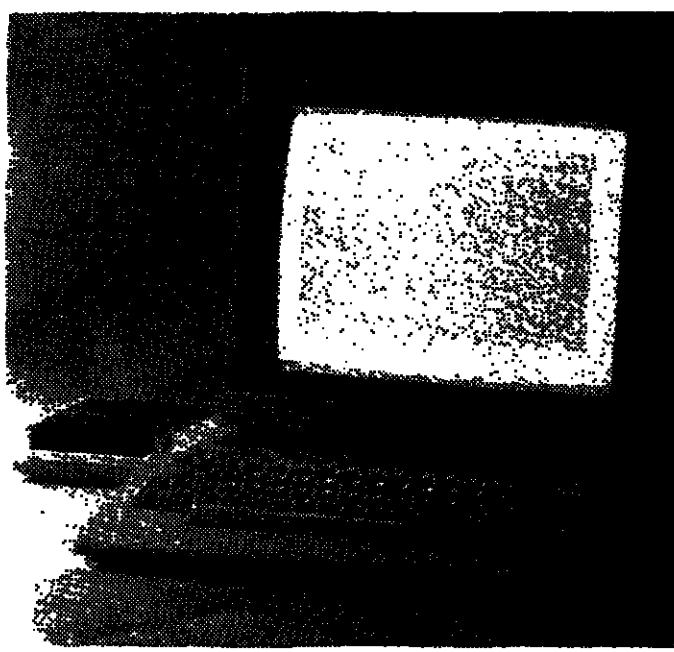
government ministries showed an interest in image processing systems, the company saw a gap in the market and signed a dealer agreement with the dealers in the field. Integrated Automation. The foresight has paid off and CESSD now have two large installations to its credit.

Last year the company detected an interest in the Standalone PC based Image Processing Systems and concluded agreements with "LaserData", a company which is a leader in this system. The first Standalone Image Processing System was sold last November and the company is working on a few other accounts.

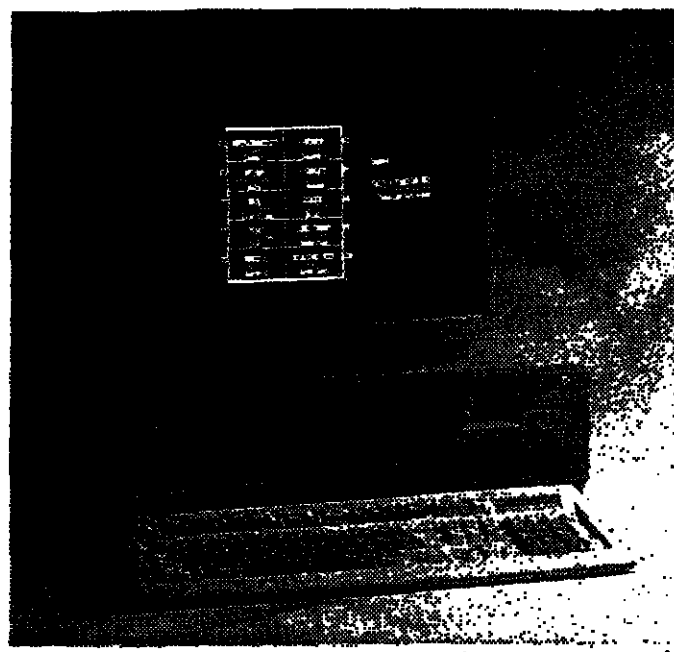
CESSD is also involved in software projects, which are tailor-made to the customer requirements.



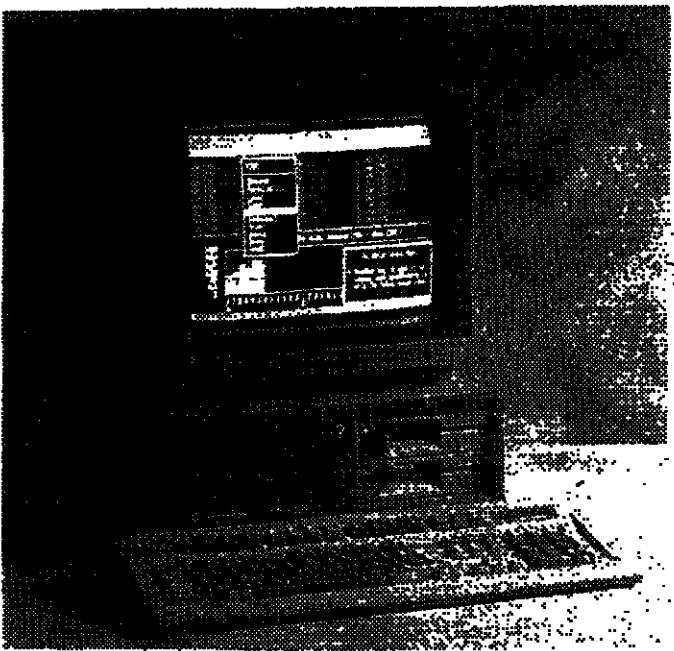
Bader Al Mulla and Bros Company have opened a modern showroom at Sharq for IBM personal computers, computer-related items and image processing systems.



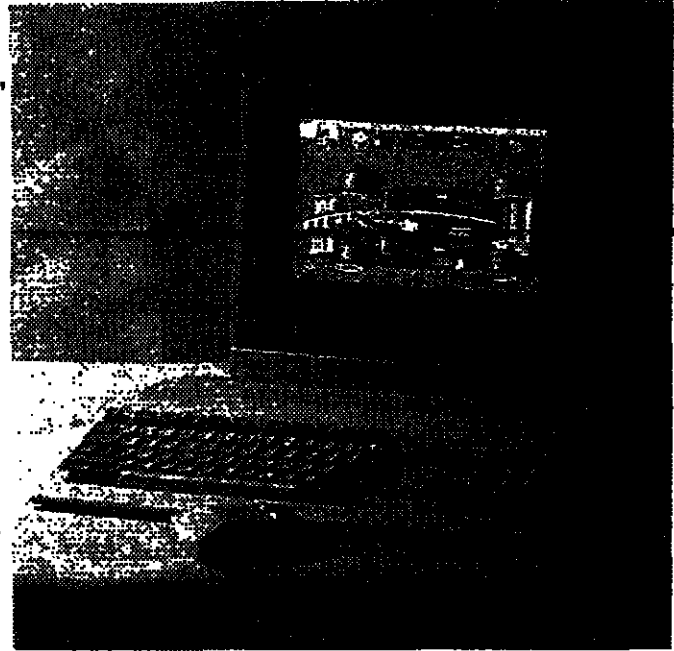
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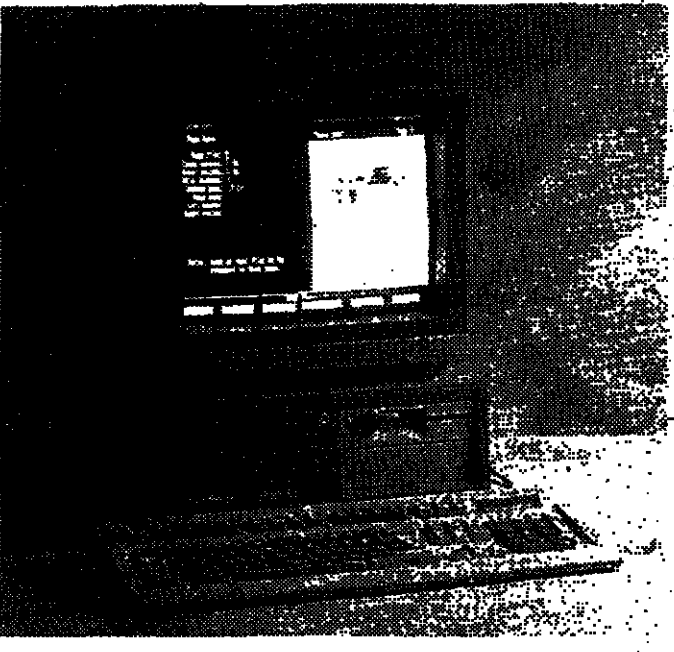
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Challenging the computer

LONDON, (Reuters): Scientists have developed an electron beam which can produce letters small enough to write the entire 29 volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica on the head of a pin.

An electron microscope at the University of Liverpool transmits a beam of highly-charged sub-atomic particles capable of drilling millions of ultra-fine holes through certain materials, said the Science and Engineering Research Council.

Cutting holes roughly the size of an atom in materials such as aluminium oxide could enable information to be stored at a density at least 1,000 times greater than in the latest computer storage device.

"It is possible to write one million lines side by side in the width of a pencil line, or to drill one million holes on the head of a pin," the council said.

The precision needed would be like trying to paint the window frame of a doll's house on earth from a satellite 100 miles (160 km) above the planet, using a single-bristle paint brush with a handle 100 miles long, it added.



The Avel-Lindberg 'Faxpower' from Britain allows an office facsimile machine to be operated in a vehicle in association with a mobile telephone. Versions are available for 12v and 24v DC vehicle systems. No modification is needed to the facsimile machine, which will transmit and receive pictures and text in the normal way. Compact and light in weight, it has comprehensive environmental protection and can be fitted outside the vehicle if required.

Mobile Faxpower

A POWER-SUPPLY unit developed by a British company allows an office-type facsimile machine to be used in a car or other vehicle.

The Avel-Lindberg 'Faxpower' FF12 and 'FF24' are for use with 12 V and 24 V vehicle electrical systems, respectively, and allow the facsimile machine—almost all types can be used—to operate in conjunction with a car telephone system. No modification is needed to the machine, which can transmit and receive pictures and text in the normal way.

The 'Faxpower' switching regulator units can be mounted almost anywhere on the vehicle, either inside or outside.

They are sealed against the ingress of dirt, oil, grease, petrol, water and salt, and are resin-encapsulated to protect them from shock and vibration.

The units contain circuitry dedicated to facsimile machines. The manufacturer can also supply inverters, converters and switching regulators to drive virtually any communications or data-handling equipment in road vehicles, trains or boats with 12 V or 24 V DC electrical systems. The units measure 183 mm x 139 mm x 42 mm (7.2 in x 5.4 in x 1.7 in) and weigh 1.5kg (3.3 lb).

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MANY major corporations in Kuwait including those in the oil and power generation sectors are taking an increasingly serious look at computer-based maintenance information systems to aid them in streamlining their maintenance operations.

The objectives of a maintenance management system are to protect investments in plant and machinery, prolong their life, decrease production costs and reducing machines and plant breakdowns.

In view of Kuwait and the Middle East's current economic situation, these objectives are crucial as new investment is scarce and ways are being sought to maximise returns on existing investment.

One of the leading software packages in this area is MASC, (Maintenance and Scheduling Control) available from Kurtz & Steel of Canada.

The company has worked in this field for over twenty years, and MASC is used in major oil refineries, steel plants and other major industrial undertakings all over the world, including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

What exactly is MASC? The manager, planner and first-line supervisor all have a vital role in the maintenance function. This is where MASC steps in.

It is a system of programmes designed specifically to provide comprehensive control of daily maintenance operations. MASC is written in a fourth generation language which gives the company the ability to customise data entry screens and the data base to the users' requirements.

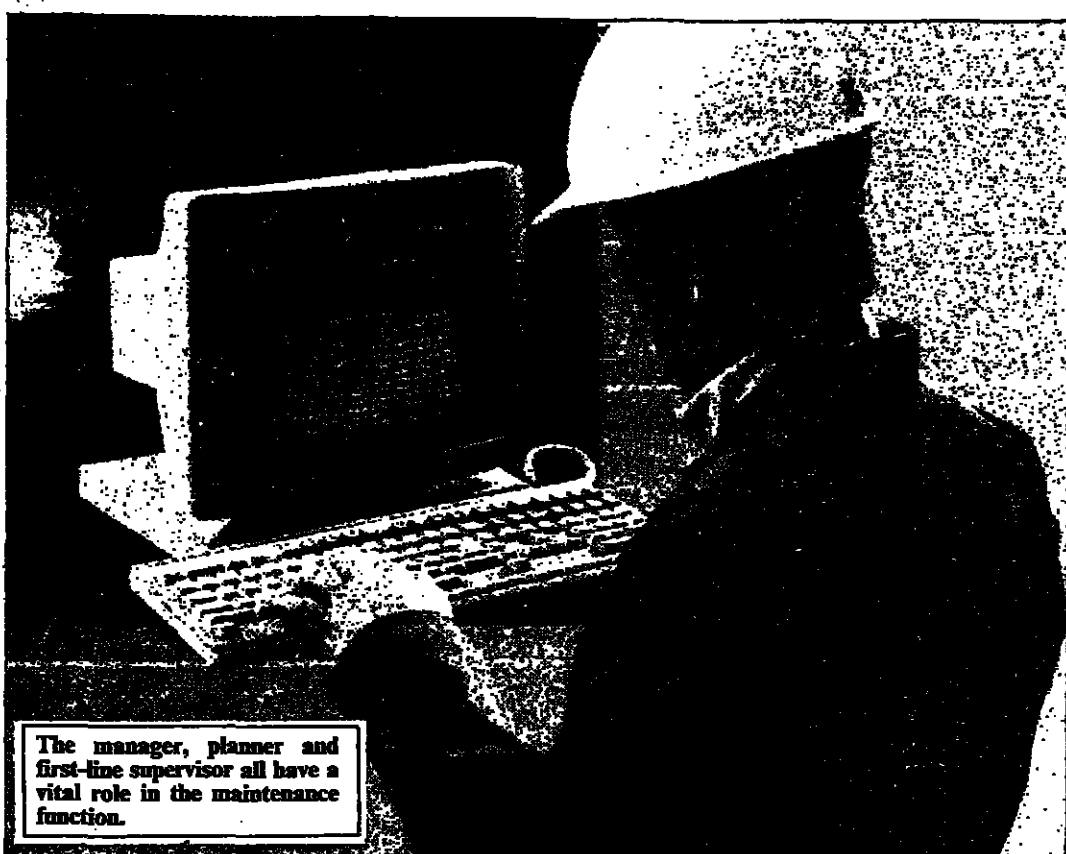
MASC fully integrates corrective maintenance, capital and shutdown work orders together with Preventive Maintenance, thereby ensuring all this information to the planner in an easily accessible format.

In the area of Work Order planning, MASC is able to copy job steps from standard job plans, complete with their estimates.

Another outstanding development of MASC is its method of generating reports from any part of the multifaceted data base. There is a comprehensive range of standard reports available.

MASC not only supports planning and scheduling, it

MASC provides comprehensive control Software for maintenance



The manager, planner and first-line supervisor all have a vital role in the maintenance function.

operates as a maintenance cost control tool. Cost information can be easily available at any time.

Handling work requests with the MASC system becomes a routine task. The screen is customised to the plant's own Work Order formats resulting in minimum disruption to current practices and maximum efficiency.

In the area of preventive maintenance another module in MASC stores pertinent information such as the date the last maintenance was performed and a scheduling frequency. MASC achieves the maximum use of information with a minimum need to repeat data entry.

MASC also makes available a complete control of every phase of materials management. This module is based on an equipment parts catalogue which lists parts for each piece of equipment and all pertinent information.

Two types of scheduling are available in the MASC system which allow the planner great scope in allocating resources: a standard manual scheduling which sorts out work orders on the basis of responsibility, priority and completion date, and a sophisticated MASC manpower balancing which the planner can invoke. The programme automatically combines all types of work orders, whether preventive maintenance or capital.

In the area of Standard Job Plans, MASC is designed to allow any number of job plans to be stored in a library and used to speed the planning of a work order. There is great flexibility in how the plans are stored.

Where cost control is concerned, MASC significantly improves the tracking of plant maintenance costs, with such features as comparison of estimated costs to actual. Cost information is available on a

continual basis for monitoring troubled areas.

One of the vital tools that MASC provides the user is the Equipment Data Base. Many types of information can be stored on file for a piece of equipment, making the Equipment Data Base invaluable to the efficient planning process.

The final stage in MASC's planning procedure is the storing of information on the Equipment History File for future use. This feature is invaluable to planners to track previous performance to plan the future maintenance requirements on any specific piece of equipment.

All these features combine to make MASC stand head and shoulders above all other maintenance software packages.

In Kuwait, Diyar United Trading and Contracting Company are the authorised distributors of Kurtz and Steel. Diyar engineers are currently working on a major project in Kuwait.

Computer virus spawns anti-viral industry

By Catherine Armit

BOSTON, (Reuters): Computer viruses seem to be everywhere lately — even on the cover of Time magazine — and that is good news for the burgeoning anti-viral industry.

There are now at least 25 companies in the United States alone that sell software programmes or hardware devices designed to 'cure' a computer infected with a virus.

Programmes with names like Antidote, Vaccinate and Virusex are designed to stop the self-replicating computer codes that can destroy data, stop operations and eat up memory space, causing millions of dollars' worth of damage in the process.

"We find after any publicised viral attack there is a radical increase in anti-viral sales," said John McAfee, founder of the National Computer Virus Industry Association and president of Interpath, an anti-viral vendor.

The anti-viral industry got a big boost earlier this month from widespread publicity about a virus that infected at least 6,000 computers across the United States linked to a research network maintained by the US Defence Department.

Although no data was destroyed, the intruding software, set loose by a Cornell University student, delayed computer operations for days at universities all across the country and may still be undetected in some systems.

The total cost to users infected by the virus was estimated to be as high as \$20 million.

The Computer Virus Association, formed last June to represent vendors of anti-viral products, estimates that its 18 members will sell at least 100,000 units this year, with prices ranging from \$30 each to more than \$200.

The association expects sales to multiply over the next few years, particularly as the more than 40 million personal computer users around the world realise that they must protect their systems.

A computer virus is a software programme that is coded to continuously reproduce itself, similar to a biological virus. It enters a computer through a disk or a commun-

ications line and attaches itself to the operating system, where it can leap onto every uninfected software programme.

Thus, the virus can be innocently spread by users swapping floppy disks, by electronic bulletin boards, or by the millions of computers linked together by networks in offices around the world.

The invaders range from a benign greeting that flashes onto a screen when the computer is turned on and then disappears, to monsters that destroy data.

The Computer Virus Association has documented more than 300 virus attacks in the last eight months, and industry experts said the most damaging ones are rarely reported because companies do not want the negative publicity.

Most computer security experts say the best offence against a virus is a good defence, and advise tough security measures over anti-viral programmes.

"The only real way to protect a system is to practise safe computing," said Colin Haynes, director of the recently founded International Computer Virus Foundation and author of a book on computer security.

Haynes advises users to restrict access as much as possible, develop hard-to-crack passwords and avoid suspect software.

But, Haynes said: "There is no such thing as a universal condom for computers," and once security is breached, anti-viral programmes can be the only cure.

There are three broad categories of vaccines: those that prevent infections from getting into the system, those that detect a virus once it is in the system, and those that identify and remove a specific virus.

The programmes designed to stop a specific virus are usually the cheapest and are considered the most effective, but only against that one strain.

Apple computer is now distributing such a programme free to users of its Macintosh computer that have been set loose by a disgruntled employee of electronic data systems, where it first appeared.

The most expensive systems are those that prevent viruses from entering a system. Vaccinate, from Sophos, costs \$195 and infects computers with non-lethal virus that prevents other virus programmes from taking up residence.

Security dynamics has a combination hardware and software system that it says will prevent and capture computer viruses in personal and host computers.

But anti-viral developers warn that any protection system can be breached by a clever programmer.

Xerox: after new conquests

By Diane Diaz

IN mid-November, 1988, a local law firm set out to find a copy company that could produce more than 1 million photocopies within a two week period. It seemed an impossible job, involving four tons of paper; a pile that would surpass the height of the Kuwait Towers.

The company took the job to Xerox. Xerox, in turn, put its entire staff, including the tea boy, to the task.

With shifts working round the clock, the Xerox team managed to churn out the copies in less than 10 days. Xerox claims it broke a record, delivering the massive order ahead of schedule and without interruption to its normal operations.

Conquest

Now Xerox is after new conquests. Its goal is to get its products into the mainstream of the Kuwait market place. But, admittedly, the company is faced with several obstacles.

One problem, Xerox acknowledges is that the company is suffering from an identity crisis in Kuwait. That is, many people here have no idea what Xerox is or what it does.

The American-based company invented the plain paper copier. The name Xerox is derived from the Greek words, xero, meaning "dry," and grapho, or "writing."

Yet, while Xerox is the recognized leader in copy machines in most parts of the world, the company is still somewhat of a new comer to Arab countries.

According to Tony Begbie, general manager for Xerox in Kuwait, the company was on an official boycott list in this country for about 15 years.

Once the boycott of Xerox ended, Abdulaziz Abdulmoh-



Tony Begbie, general manager of the Xerox company in Kuwait.

sin Al Rashed brought the company to Kuwait. The Al Rashed company serves as the sole distributor for Xerox in the country, though Xerox is responsible for managing the Kuwait operation during its first five years.

Two of those years have passed, and Xerox is now starting to take an even more aggressive approach here. In late August, the company brought in Begbie, a 26-year veteran of the Xerox company.

Experience

The company is hoping that Begbie's experience, coupled with the prestige of the Al Rashed name, will put Xerox in a position to capture a large share of the copy machine market.

Japanese competitors, who started their businesses in Kuwait before Xerox came onto the scene, have a stronghold on the market at this point, Begbie said. But, he added, Xerox is out to capture 35 per cent of the market share within the next three years.

"For the market to be interested in our product, they need to understand that they are getting more than just the copy machine that they are purchasing," Begbie said. He emphasized the company's commitment to servicing its products and making its customers happy.

"Almost anywhere else in the world, the buyer knows what he's buying and knows what he'll get for his money," Begbie said, adding that in Kuwait, Xerox reliability can only be proven with time.

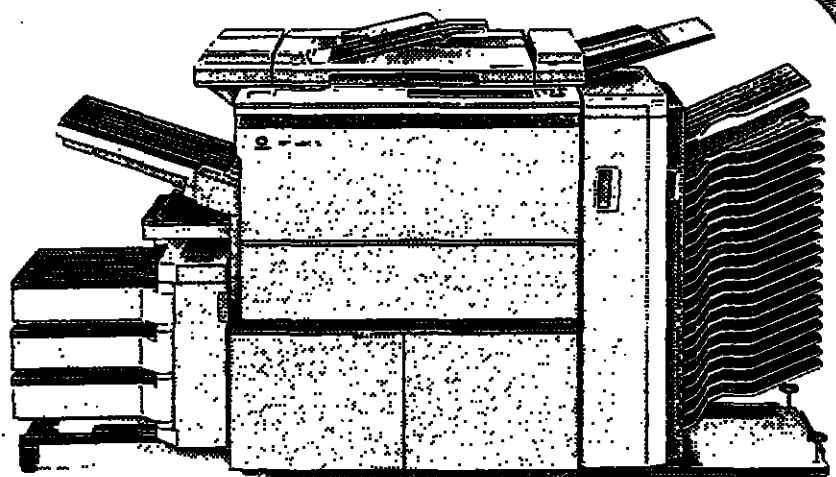
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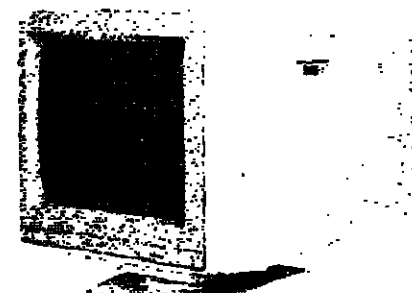
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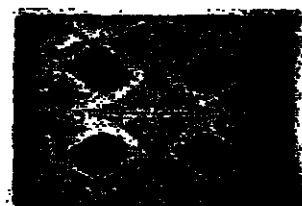
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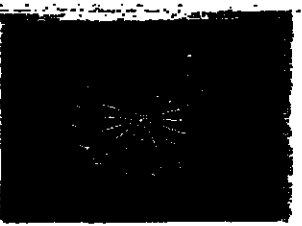
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- Compatible with IBM Enhanced Graphic Adapter and Color Graphic Adapter.



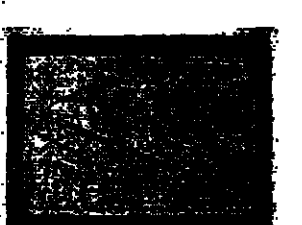
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- High contrast, non-glare, dark-tinted CRT.



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- Dual frequency monitors: automatically self-adjusting 18.43 kHz of IBM monochrome, 15.75kHz of Compaq monochrome mode.
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- Dynamic focus ensures focus at corners
- Available with Amber or Green display
- Sturdy built-in tilt and swivel base.



MM-1285

- 12" super high resolution multifrequency type monochrome monitor for either TTL or Analog signal output personal computer
- A wide scanning frequency from 15kHz to 35kHz suitable for most display cards for IBM PC family, (including IBM VGA, EGA and CGA as well as Hercules and MDA)
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- A wide range vertical frequency from 50 to 70Hz suitable for new IBM Personal System/2 graphic standard.
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Commodore's new corporate flagship: the world's first complete desktop computer

Sophisticated machines for a wide range of human activity

THE world it seems is full of surprises and Commodore's. More than 20 million Commodore microcomputers cover the whole spread of human activities.

Mainstream corporate business, industry, vertical business and non-business areas such as film and TV production, advertising, graphic design, automated design, science and education and of course home and leisure computing, the company's overwhelming success tends to distract attention from some other noteworthy facts.

In 1958, Commodore Business Machines Limited began trading in Toronto, Canada, as a typewriter sales, maintenance and repair company.

This was one of the less spectacular events in a year when the US submarine Nautilus travelled 1,830 miles under the Arctic ice-cap. *West Side Story* opened, the Yeti was first sighted in the Himalayas, the French revalued the franc, Charles became Prince of Wales and Jericho was carbon-14 dated as the oldest city in the world.

But it was a suitably business-like start to a company that would move on through the world-wide marketing of typewriters, photocopiers, adding machines and calculators to spearhead the business micro-revolution and put more computing power into the hands of more people than any other manufacturer.

A small thing, by definition. But a giant step forward for the world business community.

The Commodore C108, launched in 1969, handed every executive the ability to forget maths and get on with business.

First desktop computers

You almost certainly have just such a calculator in your pocket or briefcase right now. Whatever make it is, Commodore can be credited with having put it there.

From this simple 4-function machine, Commodore progressed through microchip-memory calculators, scientific machines and programmable models.

The Commodore PET personal computer was announced at the Hanover Fair and the Chicago Consumer Electronics Show in June 1977.

It didn't simply predate the IBM PC by nearly half a decade: it demystified the whole of computing and it put the writing on the wall for business computers the size of a two-car garage.

It also demonstrated conclusively that data processing power could be decentralised from mammoth corporate and bureau owned mainframes to where it belonged: this executive desktop.

Revolution

This began the most significant revolution in business history. And it was all Commodore's own work.

PET stood for Personal Electronic Transactor and for the first time, it put together the technology the desktop user needed: a chip set of Central Processing Unit, Random Access Memory Chip and Read Only Memory Chip, a typewriter-style keyboard, a Visual Display Unit, and BASIC computer language which would allow the components to be programmed to

work as a team.

The 6502 chip-set, around which the PET (and, subsequently, the Apple) came into being, was the product of Commodore's own subsidiary, MOS Technology.

Should you think, that the real initiator of the micro revolution was the direct-marketed KIM 1 kit computer you are right. That was a MOS Technology product too. A prototype and test marketing exercise for the PET.

The PET was an instant sales phenomenon that had people writing cheques on the stands at the Hanover and Chicago shows and built a 9-month order backlog until Commodore got its breath back and regeared itself to world demand.

PETs became CBM 3000s and then CBM 8000 series micros and, finally, Superpets.

They and the first home computer, the Commodore VIC-20, dominated the micro market through into the 1980s, with one million VIC-20s being shipped worldwide in 1982 alone.

In 1982, also, the Commodore 64 arrived, the machine that was to become the single biggest-selling micro in computing history to date.

From the PET onwards, all of those Commodore models were the products of vertical integration. This means that Commodore produced all the technology, from the chip up, and marketed the machine through a network of Commodore dealerships, created progressively from the time would-be dealer candidates had queued up behind would-be buyers at the two 1977 shows.

In June 1979, Commodore took vertical integration higher still by marketing the world's first word processing software package, written by an independent developer, CMC, for the PET.

A full range of business software, including general ledger, mailing list and more advanced word processing followed shortly, from both Commodore and independent vendors.

Interestingly, there are more than 10,000 PETs still in everyday service in the UK alone even now. Idiosyncratically soldiering on outside the IBM standard. Slow even by PC benchmarks and light years off the pace compared with Commodore's present

generation of 16/32-bit Amigas. But still so reliable and productive that they have escaped the accountant's axe.

Commodore continues to be business micro leader and on PC compatibles alone, Commodore was number four in Western Europe last year.

It shipped twice as many PCs as Tandon, three times as many as Compaq, three times as many as Epson, more than Apple and more than all the minor brands combined. And, unlike many competitors, actually made the machines it shipped.

Commodore compatibles, including the very fast 286-chipped hard disk Commodore PC4040 AT, are fully featured high quality machines at the leading edge of the industry standard.

But Commodore capability extends far beyond the limitations of the MS-DOS environment within which business progress has been increasingly confined since the early 1980s.

The multi capability, multi-environment Commodore Amiga 2000 offers business computing powers unimaginable in the wildest dreams of the conventional PC user.

Its baby brother, the Amiga 500, puts much of the same extraordinary sophistication within reach of small budget businesses and home enthusiasts.

The Amigas are true multitasking machines with supreme graphics and sound capabilities, uniting the Motorola 68000 family of processors with Commodore's own 32-bit dedicated chip technologies.

They also have what is perhaps the most friendly and advanced operational interface yet devised.

The user works in an effortlessly simple and intuitive multi-window environment, informed by icons, menus and dialogue boxes and achieving whatever he or she wishes by mouse or keyboard command.

The Amiga 2000's open architecture allows the buyer to specify Intel 80286 AT or 8088 XT capability within the same compact footprint as the multi-processor Amiga technology.

The result is parallel productivity that takes the corporate computer user towards the year 2000 while protecting and enhancing his existing investment in IBM-compatible hardware and MS-DOS configured software.



More than 20 million Commodore microcomputers cover the whole spread of human activities.

Putting things in perspective

Computer virus: more of measles than bubonic plague

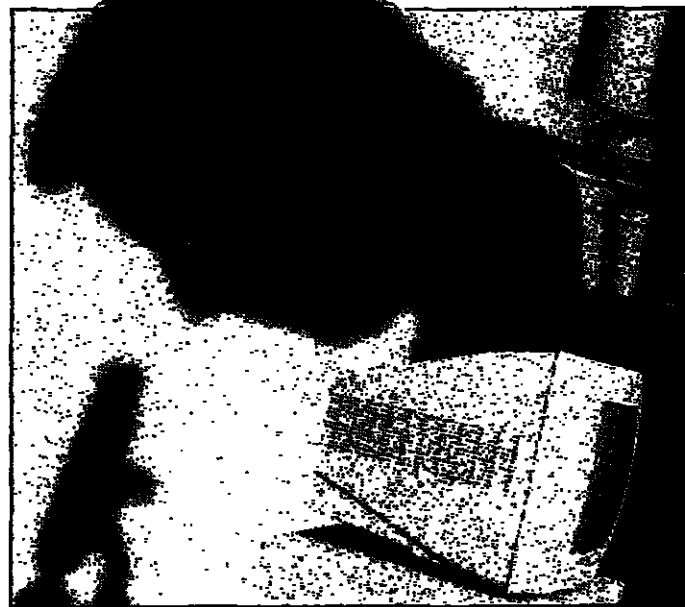
WHOEVER came up with the name "computer virus" for the software bombs we're currently reading about knew how to get our attention. What better way to scare the life out of all good computer users than to threaten them with an electronic version of AIDS? Words such as *inoculation*, *infection*, *epidemic*, and *contagion* will soon become part of our PC vocabulary, and we'll be afraid to handle floppy disks without first putting on rubber gloves.

The analogy to disease is misleading, not to mention somewhat offensive. Let's put this in perspective. A few well-publicised incidents, some of them of questionable credibility, have created the notion that we're all risking obliteration of our data every time we boot up a programme.

But the fact is that only a very small percentage of users, most of them in high-density areas such as universities and large corporations, have been victims of viruses. The individual user who works in isolation doesn't have much to worry about yet.

Insidious spread

Also, we should remember that software viruses cannot spread to the users of the machines they attack. If your data is infected, you and your family will retain your health and happiness. Let's not allow the urgency of the medical metaphor to scramble our sense of priorities.



A very small percentage of users have been the victims of viruses... the individual user working in isolation doesn't have much to worry about yet.

A virus is code that buries itself in a programme and then replicates itself. It can automatically jump to other disks and programmes to which it has access.

A benign virus might flash a joke on the screens of all the computers into which it is loaded. A more annoying type of virus might slow down programme execution. The worst kind destroys program-

the first is through disk swapping, which is how Lehigh University computers reportedly were zapped last December. The virus spread via the library, which let students check out programmes, and the computer lab. After the virus code had duplicated itself four times, it erased the disk.

The second method of dissemination and data files. Viruses spread in two ways.

tribution is through networks and bulletin board systems (BBSes). The simplest technique is for someone to upload a public domain programme that contains a virus. Users who download the programme and run it will then spread the virus among their disks and those of their friends and colleagues.

I was sceptical about viruses until a technical writer, John Wolfkill, spent a recent week-end writing one.

John's virus plants itself in Command.COM. Whenever the user issues a DIR command, the operating system first goes to the virus code. The virus code looks for Command.COM on other drives, replicates itself, and then lets DOS continue about its business. The virus is harmless, but the exercise was enlightening.

"My concern was whether a virus is viable," said John. "It is."

How it will affect you

Because viruses are easy to write and sound so nasty, it's hard to fantasise a National Nightmares in which viruses spread through the government, the military, and multinational corporations, wiping out vast data banks and bringing the country to its knees.

But that's a scenario I'll let the computer-security pros ponder. Of more immediate concern to average users is the impact viruses could have on routine data sharing.

First, your user's group, par-

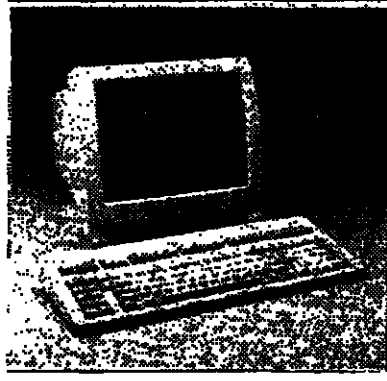
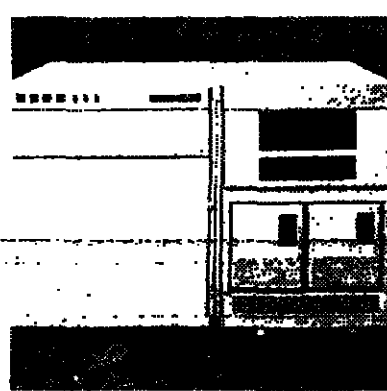
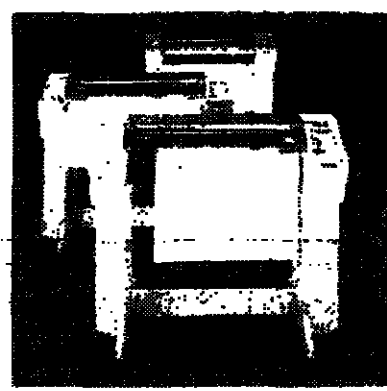
ticularly if it's in your company, might have to curtail the free exchange of public domain software and bootleg programmes. Your company might prohibit you from bringing in disks you've used on your home computer. If you run your own business, you might need to screen your software before you use it. Second, viruses could inhibit your use of BBSes. Most boards are not secure enough to guarantee the safety of their customers. Who wants to risk erasing his or her hard drive for the thrill of downloading public domain software?

Third, you might need to take extra security precautions as part of your daily routine. These might range from simple steps such as using write-protect tabs on your disks to more complex procedures such as using virus prevention programmes.

These measures don't sound like much fun. But on the other hand, a lot of them are commonsense guidelines we should be following anyway. If I lose my data — whether from a virus, an accidental overwrite, or a hardware malfunction — and haven't followed standard backup procedures, I have no one to blame but myself.

In any case, don't overreact to the dire accounts of virus mayhem that are bound to crop up in the media. And don't be confused by the language. At this point, the problem is still more of a measles outbreak than it is the bubonic plague.

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UNIX and LANs: a battle rages for supremacy

IN THE commercial data processing world or where a central database is required, UNIX Systems have complete dominance. The arguments between PC LANs and UNIX Systems exist purely in the office automation environment. PC LANs have achieved a degree of popularity here. However, latest worldwide market research from Informa shows that UNIX has 27.2 per cent of the multiuser microcomputer market, DOS and OS/2 used as networked file servers have just 2.9 per cent.

Why does UNIX have this dominance?

Apart from the numerous technical superiorities of UNIX there are several marketing issues which must be examined.

Price
Price, of course, is a major consideration. In meeting the computing needs of a small number of users (perhaps 20 or less) — UNIX Systems usually provide the less expensive alternative, although LANs and UNIX Systems share many requirements per user — such as CRTs, keyboards and cables — the essential difference lies in the number of CPUs and supporting components each approach requires.

PCs require the purchase of one CPU for each user, whereas a single UNIX System can serve out only CPU for all users. This CPU, of course, is far more powerful than a PC's CPU.

However, creating a multiuser UNIX Systems capable of serving 15 users does not cost 15 times as much as creating 15 PCs for 15 users.

It is usually possible to put together a six to eight user UNIX System for less than \$2,000 including printers, terminals and software. Six quality PCs, a printer and software via a LAN costs considerably more.

Service and support
The cost of service and support is another big consideration. Multiuser UNIX Systems, because all components are supplied and serviced by one vendor, offer easier and

MULTIUSER UNIX Computers & Personal Computer LANs are battling for supremacy in the departmental computer market. The end users today are very confused and frustrated in their quest for a solution to the computer needs.

This article attempts to cut down the technological barriers and point out why businesses are more often than not choosing multiuser UNIX solutions to solve their business problems.

lower maintenance costs.

Most LAN installations, on the other hand, are purchased from vendors that do not supply PCs, and two separate service contracts are required.

Overall training costs also may be lower with multiuser systems. For example, an NCR PC user will be easily able to employ NCR's UNIX-based Tower super-microcomputers, because all these machines make use of the same operating system.

There are many other factors to consider in choosing between the PC-LAN and UNIX solutions. For example, vendors of UNIX-based micro and super-micro computers, and larger systems, point to the large number of Software houses available to write custom applications for UNIX

move a desk, you'd probably prefer a pick-up. Similarly, there is no quick, clean answer to the LAN vs multiuser UNIX Systems performance question. Again, it depends on how the system is used.

So how can you better understand this question? The best way is to examine the differences in performance between PC LANs and UNIX Systems in two areas: — database access time and raw processing speed.

Database access time
The time taken to update a screen with a new record or file from a common database is commonly called database access time. This is a vital issue because access to a common database is the purpose of having a LAN or a multiuser UNIX Systems in the first place. When it comes to

have all this network overhead to contend with, Hence, UNIX Systems typically maintain more consistent database access times as more users are added to a system.

Raw computing speed
A common misconception is that PC LANs are inherently more powerful than UNIX Systems. The reasoning is simple that the former has a bunch of processors and the latter usually has one.

But that's a lot like saying that since a woman requires nine months to have a baby, nine women should be able to produce one in a month. Things just don't work that way!

To better understand the raw computing speed question, consider that on any multiuser system, many users are inactive at any given time. Some will be

Multiuser UNIX Systems are, as a rule, more efficient in their use of computing power. There may be only one processor, but it's working fulltime all the time. Even though a LAN does have processing potential, it's of little value unless the power is harnessed. Thus, in most applications multiuser UNIX systems are more powerful than LANs, because of the LANs' inherent processing inefficiency.

Applications
Now that we've examined two key elements of performance, let us relate them to common applications. Where SNAP (the term used for the immediate response time obtainable from a dedicated PC processor) is a major concern and a common database is not, PC LANs may be more beneficial. CAD, heavy word processing and spreadsheet applications are the few good examples.

On the other hand, accounting, order entry, inventory control, and transaction processing systems involve heavy common database traffic, and SNAP is relatively unimportant. Thus, multiuser UNIX Systems generally outperform LANs in these types of applications.

The optimum solution
Unfortunately, most real-world applications don't fall cleanly into either category discussed above. For example, some CAD users will invariably need frequent access to a common database, and likewise, some accounting system users will need to do word processing and spreadsheet work. Most applications, therefore, require some kind of mixed solution. A good long term solution is to combine the PC LANs and multiuser UNIX Systems in a single hybrid system.

There is no doubt that there is a rise in popularity of net-

working PCs, but in many cases UNIX Systems are being used as intelligent file servers in this environment.

Many products have been introduced over the past two years to provide UNIX Systems with high performance LAN characteristics.

At the recent Uniform Conference in Dallas, Microsoft announced that the OS/2 LAN Manager is now available under UNIX. Bill Gates, president of Microsoft, claims that LM/X offers superior performance and functionality than any PC LAN and has the advantage of being a non-proprietary product.

The concept of using UNIX as the workgroup computer is not new, but there are many products from many vendors that provide this functionality. This approach is well-suited for departmental computing applications where UNIX Systems are servers of high speed PC networks. This gives the best of both worlds by minimizing cost and maximizing efficiency.

Already NCR has installed over 20 per cent of its UNIX Systems into this hybrid environment and I believe that the majority of multiuser systems sold by all vendors will fall into this category by 1990.

Both multiuser UNIX Systems and PC LANs solve specific multiuser computer problems. While the tradeoffs between the two configurations are fairly complex, they can be broken down into 4 basic areas: price, service and support, database access time and raw computing speed.

In nearly all cases where a common database is required, the multiuser UNIX Systems is the ideal fit. However, both UNIX and PC LANs Systems will work together to co-exist in a mutually beneficial relationship.

Programmers bet on honesty and ... hit the jackpot!

By Graham Earnshaw

WASHINGTON, (Reuter): Jim Button's business amounts to a bet on human honesty. And he's hit the jackpot.

A few years ago, he wrote a computer programme and handed it out for free, with a note attached asking people who liked the programme to donate 10 dollars. That note developed into a multi-million dollar business.

"I didn't expect it," Button said. "I knew it was going to be popular, but I thought I would only defray my mailing costs and maybe make some pocket money. Instead we're going to do three million dollars in sales this year."

The idea is called shareware and hundreds of computer programmers now use it to distribute their software programmes — they let people copy them and then hope that their consciences will do the rest.

"It assumes that there are enough good, honest people in the world that will pay for the product," said Button, who has made a fortune from a database programme called PC-file.

"It also takes advantage of this wonderful feature of programmes on diskettes that they reproduce themselves with 100 per cent accuracy. Everyone with a computer has the ability to make those copies," he said.

There are now thousands of shareware programmes available — games, word processing programmes, business utilities, all free if you choose to ignore the author's plea for a donation.

They are usually not as sophisticated as those sold through commercial channels. But the donation requested by shareware authors amounts to only a fraction of the price of a regular programme.

Computers software companies often go to extraordinary lengths to stop people copying their programmes. Shareware authors positively welcome it.

The programmes can be copied from friends, or obtained from one of the computer bulletin boards which now blanket much of the world. Small companies have also sprung up, copying and distributing shareware programmes for three or four dollars a disk, a practice shareware authors encourage.

"We don't have a high-priced product, so we can't spend a lot of money of advertising," said Miriam Hartline, who promotes the shareware

programme PC-write. "So we pass it out via shareware and that gives us a large user base to sell the manual and our other materials too."

Shareware began with Button's PC file programme in 1982 and has now become big business.

Generate
"Our estimate is that the shareware market will generate between 12 and 15 million dollars in 1988 in payments to authors and maybe another 10 million in profits to the disk distributors," said Button.

"This comes out to about one per cent of the total estimated micro-computer software sales," he said.

So how many people actually cough up the money? Estimates vary from one to 20 per cent, depending on the programme.

Hartline said that for PC-write, the most popular shareware word-processing programme, 35,000 people had registered and another 90,000 had bought manuals.

But the estimated number of people using PC-write is 500,000.

For the rest, the cheque is presumably in the mail. And then again, maybe it isn't.

Yet users who have paid up will give quicksoft, the company that makes PC-write, profits this year of around two million dollars.

Bob Wallace, president of quicksoft and the man credited with coining the word shareware, said there was sound business logic behind the practice that went beyond reliance on honesty.

"Did you ever get a free tube of toothpaste in the mail? That's called sampling. There is an element of altruism (in shareware), but there's also a feeling that software needs to be sampled."

"It's such a complicated product that a lot of people just don't feel comfortable committing to a package until they've used it for a week or two," he said.

For young computer programmers who have a good idea and no cash, it is a dream come true.

All they have to do is place their programme on a couple of major computer bulletin boards and wait for the cheques to roll in. No advertising costs, no distribution fees.

"Word of mouth has always been a good sales method, word of disk is the same thing," said Button. "It costs the originator nothing."

Which copier could satisfy all these people?

Speech bubbles from various people:

- "We need a copier that can produce 50 A4 double-sided copies a minute."
- "I need a small dimensions copier with big dimensions quality."
- "My company needs a high capacity copier guaranteed to deliver 100-000 copies monthly."
- "We have to copy drawing plans up to A0 size. I have to get a copier to cope with this."
- "We have a lot of coloured material... we need a copier that can give us colours fast, and that everybody can use."
- "...and my boss wants me to find him a copier that is backed up by a quality service organization."
- "What about me... I need a telefax machine that can give copies onto A4 size paper."
- "In our business the quality of the copy is very important."

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Some golden rules on computing

Continued from Page 7

on again, reload your programme (while keeping your fingers crossed) and see what happens.

It could just have been a glitch in your electrical current. If, however, your horoscope for the week read: "Many people will be finding this a quiet and tranquil time — but not you", be warned. One reassuring note is that computers do not look at horoscopes. Unfortunately, they also don't read the manuals — which clearly state that if A happens, do B. All computers will do C. Whatever that may be.

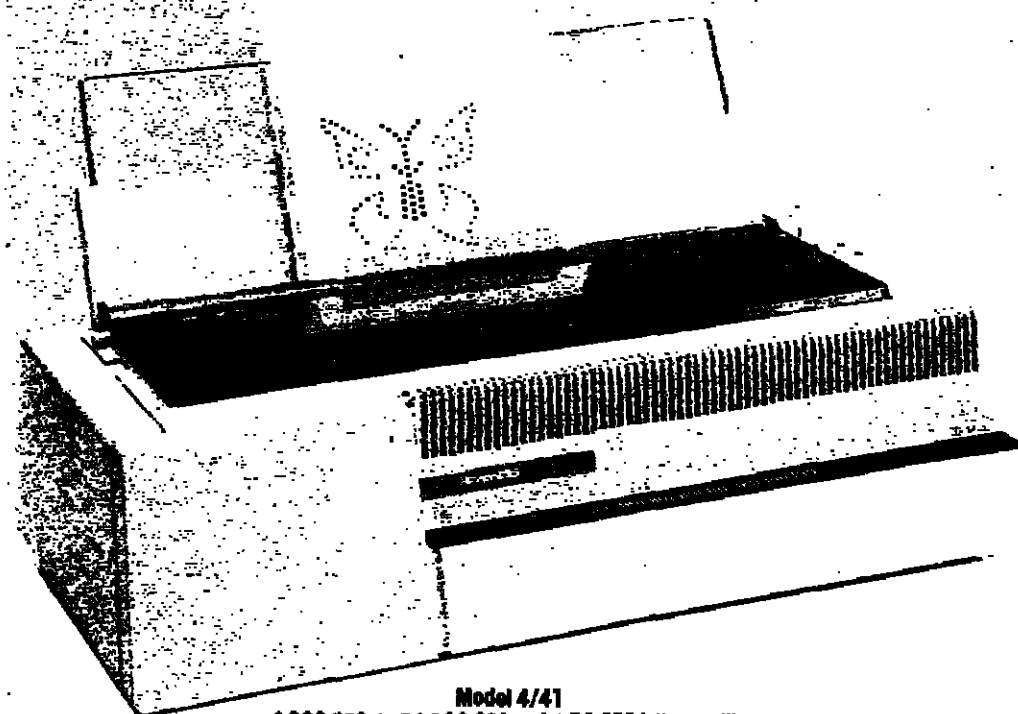
Rule Number 5 — Computers don't work by rules

Frustrating, isn't it? You've read this far, then you find out the above rules may not apply. Alright, I lie. I admit it. Computers do work by rules — as their rules are based in logic. I have found, however, that humans do not take too well to logical thought. It may have something to do with their emotional basis. This is only a theory.

Computers never work by YOUR rules, YOUR logic, and YOUR thought processes. They have their own idea about how things should run — and about how they will and will not accept commands from you. And if you say "why does my computer do that when it's obvious it could do this instead", just remember — a human (yes, believe it or not) of flesh and blood like you programmed YOUR computer to do what is making you frustrated.

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Computer power in schools

Bringing new enthusiasm into the classroom

By Adeline Naiman

IT is now more than a decade since computers first crept into American classrooms, bringing with them the potential for revitalising the lives of teachers and students alike.

Until 1977, when the first "personal" computers arrived in the marketplace, computing was too expensive for most schools. A few time-shared big mainframes through an expensive telephone connection and put the terminals in the business division of the high school or "vo-tech" school.

No elementary students ever saw a computer, and no teacher incorporated computing into an academic subject, except possibly computer science. When a handful of excited teachers began to bring their own stand-alone microcomputers into their classrooms and share them with colleagues, the revolution was on.

Despite the initial resistance by intimidated teachers, the number of computers in schools mushroomed. Market studies today show close to 2 million machines in United States schools. Almost every American schoolchild now has access to a computer, and the implications for schooling are profound. Not only can students learn new skills and established content in new ways, but also teachers are impelled to rethink what they teach and how they teach it.

Measure
Two major trends have emerged, both driven by existing school practices. Some schools and districts have maintained a large measure of autonomy and have responded to the new opportunities by developing a systemwide plan to incorporate computer-based instruction into the whole curriculum, K-12.

Over the long term, they plan to acquire hardware and software to support their redefined educational goals, maintain teacher training and continued assistance, and work together to achieve their goals. Many have been helped by private



A US school student uses a microcomputer to test insulation designs for a model house.

donations from computer companies, public funding from federal and state agencies, and local dollars from state and district governments, PTAs, and businesses.

States as diverse as Florida, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, and North Carolina lead the way. In some states, infusions of cash have helped districts acquire hardware, software, and training. California, among other states, has set up regional centres that provide technical assistance and opportunities to review software.

In many states, such as Massachusetts, growing cohorts of qualified computer specialists and classroom teachers have banded together to share freely what they have learned and to

provide continuing support to one another and to new recruits. This is not a top-down innovation? It is a genuinely grass-roots revolution, spurred on by voluntary generosity. The knowledge and skill donated to meetings of computer-using educators breed an energy for work, an excitement, and an optimism that have long been lacking in the nation's schools.

At the other extreme is the pressure to incorporate computers as one more transient bit of technology in the unchanging classroom scene — the latest highly touted gadget to join the language labs and teaching machines on the shelves of storage closets.

Most schools still base instruction on textbooks and

workbooks, lesson plans, and test questions. In the last couple of decades, teachers' initiative and imagination have been subordinated to the syllabus.

Where computers have been brought into most schools, they are often mandated by administrators, under pressure from school boards. In turn, unwilling teachers resist the pressure from above. Moreover, teacher training is often inadequate and too brief. One way out is to provide step-by-step lesson plans, accompanied by computer drills and tutorials keyed to the textbook. This way, teachers don't have to confront anything drastically new that they aren't prepared to teach. Likewise, they needn't dump something from the present curriculum to make space for

new computer-based material. And they can meet test requirements and supply fairly precise grades.

Power

The result is often to ignore the extraordinary power of the computer that could help schools rethink what they can and should teach. It also deadens the enthusiasm that students bring to computer use in their subjects.

In a series of reports based on national surveys of teaching practices, Henry Jay Becker, a researcher at the Johns Hopkins University, has reported that computers are most widely used in schools either for computer programming instruction or for worksheet-type drills and tutorials in such subjects as language arts and arithmetic. Dr. Becker says, "Despite the concentration of mathematics applications in the early grades, in the secondary grades only a very small portion of instructional activity with school computers has been devoted to traditional mathematics subject-matter. Science subject matter has constituted a similarly small part of school computer use, at both elementary and secondary levels." This, despite the fact that the computers play an essential part in adult work in mathematics and science and engineering, fields in which the United States has a growing shortage of qualified professionals.

In similar fashion, much computer use is focused on drills in spelling and other language skills, while the national complaint is that high school graduates find it hard to enter the work world because they can't read adequately, write coherently, or express themselves in face-to-face communication.

In two areas of schooling, positive changes can be seen. One is the incorporation of computers into the education of children with special needs or communication handicaps. Thanks in large part to federal and state support of special education, computers have changed the lives of children who, in many cases, couldn't be taught through conventional means or mainstreamed in regular classrooms.

Some of the filmed records of such computer-assisted cognitive development are intensely moving. For example, Dr. Sylvia Weir and her associates in the Logo Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have videotaped severely handicapped youngsters learning with computers over time. In some cases, her subjects would have been doomed as unteachable, without computers.

The other area is also dramatic and is increasingly widespread. It is the use of computers and word-processing software to encourage children to learn to write. Much school software makes use of computer programmes originally developed at great cost as tools for business. Adapted for children, such programmes can make a huge difference in the ways that children learn to solve problems, use intellectual tools and data bases, and use graphics and spreadsheets. Of these powerful adult tools, none have captured the imagination of teachers and students (and home-based computer users) so well as word processing.

By Rex Last

ONE of the great clichés of the business and manufacturing world is that a fortune awaits the man who invents a better mousetrap.

Apart from the facetious response that the only result of that will be the convening of an emergency conference of mice deciding on how to invent a better mouse to deal with it, I have serious doubts as to whether the distum holds good in the computing business at all.

But why not? If a car manufacturer brings out a new speed-stripped limited slip differential eight speed gearbox turbo hot hatchback, queues form round the block jostling to buy it. It ought to be the same for the lucky salesperson who can lean over your shoulder and tell you that his souped-up micro can tick along at so many more megahertz than your sleepy old machine.

Think how much faster the throughput of accounts will be, how much zippier the word processor will word process, how many more numbers will be speedily crunched by a new micro. But no. The user clings on to his old machine like grim death, more than content with the performance of his old faithful machine — however sluggish it might appear in the face of the very latest model.

IT'S such a shame, though: in all those research and development labs beffins beaver away creating Riscchips, transputers and co-processors for all they are worth. And people still insist on holding on to what they are familiar with, even if it's demonstrably far inferior from a performance point of view.

And again, when two competing products come out into the marketplace there's no guarantee that the "better" one will win the day. Remember the DEC Rainbow 100? If my memory serves me correctly it came out at about the same time as the IBM PC early in 1983, and it had winner written

Are manufacturers doing too much?

all over it. But it ran into trouble for one reason or another, and now the world is populated with PC clones, all descendants of the original cassette-based system with its massive 16k or 32k ROM.

So there was no pot of gold for the Rainbow. It may have been founded for the same kind of reasons as the Spectrum QL, namely, that promises to deliver either the machine or associated packages never seemed to materialise. So let that be a lesson to the market.

But wait a moment. What was in the view of many people the most over-priced, delay-ridden micro ever to come on to the computing scene? The BBC Micro it was, and that didn't exactly sink into well-deserved obscurity. At the time, however, there was nothing to beat it for specification and performance.

So something odd appears to be going on. The name of the game seems not to be to make a better mouse driver; the whole business evidently has hidden depths.

Perhaps part of the answer can be found in the phenomenal success of Amstrad products. Instead of boldly going for cutting-edge technology and telling the public what it ought to want, Alan Sugar has produced tried and tested "old" technology at a price that buries the opposition.

What many of those selling to the mass market fail to recognise, in my view, is that a computer isn't just another consumer durable like a dishwasher or remote control video recorder. (Incidentally, heaven knows, I have enough trouble trying to master those pieces of technology myself.)

Whatever their politics, people are conservative with a

small "c" when it comes to computers, and for a very good reason too. It takes a very great deal of time and effort to become familiar with a particular programming language (like Fortran or Cobol), an operating system (CP/M or MSdos, say), or a word processor (no prizes for guessing: WordStar).

Aspects

So, even if these aspects of computing become supposedly obsolete, which has manifestly happened in the case of earlier versions of WordStar and languages such as Fortran and Cobol, let alone the pre-Wimp operating environments, there's a huge weight of inertia holding back developments and advances in hardware and software. Because the buying public is very reluctant indeed to go forward into unknown territory, even if the sales rep swears that it is the Promised Land.

What a really clever manufacturer ought to do is to bring out a wolf in sheep's clothing, so to speak: a computer that looks, not like next year's model, but like the good old familiar last year's machine. You can still load your old programmes on it without change, but the more adventurous souls can run Occam on its transputers to their heart's content.

So I'd like to see developments take place in the direction of an omni-computer, as I would call it: a machine which, at the press of a button, could be a BBC micro for one person, a PC clone for another, and have all the fancy stuff for the development and research programmer.

For me, that would be the better computing mousetrap.



Manufacturers take a big risk putting out new and better computers every year.



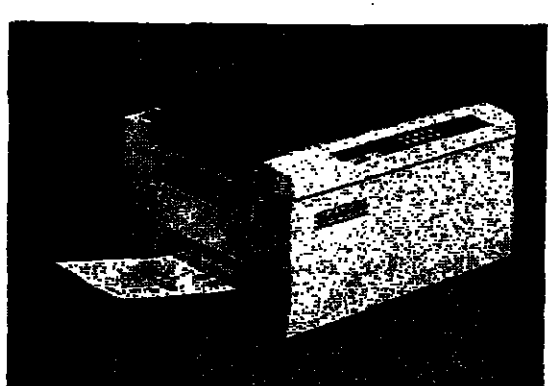
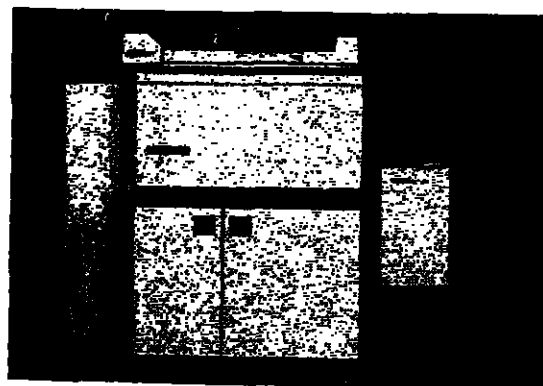
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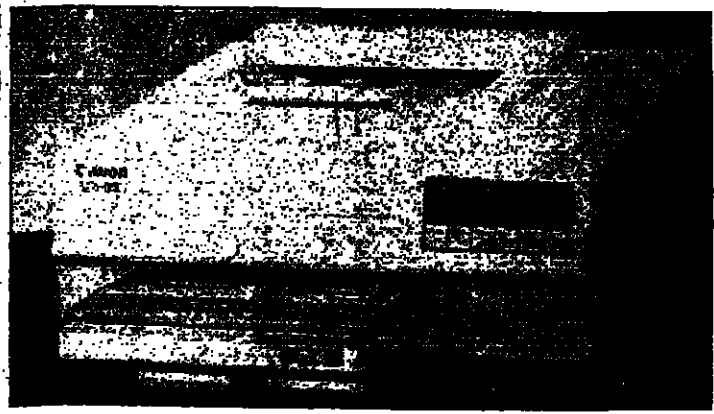
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COMPUTERS AND OFFICE AUTOMATION: AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1989



Lower cost laser printers like this do not include the postscript system — but are subsequently much more affordable.



Laser printers have their roots with the photocopier, and thus look much like a photocopier. Controlling a laser printer however, is slightly more complex.

Printers: some new alternatives

A FEW years ago, it was daisy-wheel printing that provided the highest quality output for anyone using a PC, by simply harnessing standard typewriter technology to produce a printed page from the screen.

These days, however, there are a whole variety of dot-matrix alternatives that provide high-quality finished computer output.

Thermal printing
Thermal wax printer technology produces high-quality coloured images by heating coloured wax and fusing it to the paper or transparency.

Tektronix UK has entered the expanding PC desktop presentation market with a relatively affordable, laser-quality, thermal wax colour printer that incorporates a dedicated Mac II interface.

The memorably-named 4693D printer produces hard copy on either waxed paper or transparencies, in almost 16.8 million colours and at a resolution of 300 dots per inch. It gives a particularly high quality result when used with leading Mac II programmes, and initially Tektronix will focus its marketing efforts on the Apple Mac market.

The printer has a 68020

Dot-matrix printers are the most commonly-used personal computer 'output devices' and the end-product you get from them is formed by a series of tiny dots which hammer against an inked ribbon and then onto the paper. In this article, Kenneth Clements investigates alternatives to this technology.

image processor, whose task is to enhance and interpret all the colouring, sizing and printing of data from the Mac II. This effectively frees the host Mac II for other tasks.

Up to four Mac IIs or compatible computer terminals can be connected to the printer at any one time and there is a resident "frame buffer," which basically allows the computers that are linked together to "queue" to use the printer. As one print job finishes, the next is automatically started.

The 4693D produces full-colour images at a rate of one finished copy per minute and, in addition, can produce rough copies for proofing purposes in around five seconds. It includes 4 MB of memory as standard, expandable to 12 MB for more

complex printing.

Creating professionally-finished graphics on the 4693D works out at around 35p per waxed page or £1.30 per transparency — which compares favourably with similar ready-made presentation graphics that can cost around £6.50 per page when purchased over the counter in specialist shops in the UK.

"The single greatest barrier to the widespread adoption of colour printer has been the quality of the technology available," said Mark Elliott, Tektronix distribution manager.

"The 4693D, because of its high resolution, extensive colour palette and sophisticated 'dithering' technology, produces the highest quality prints currently available. As a result it's the ideal print engine for Mac II graphics users, and with its dedicated interface it's precisely what Mac II users have been waiting for."

"Dithering is a process which allows the colours cyan, magenta, yellow and black to be mixed to produce many intermediate shades. The 4693D combines dithering with a process called 'error diffusion,' which essentially means that before it prints a dot of colour, it checks the surrounding dots to minimise the chance of an error between the printed colour and the desired colour."

Solid ink printing

Priced £7,900, the 4693D is the first product to emerge from Tektronix's growing commitment to the colour PC printer market, and for the first time in its history the company will use external sales outlets to distribute the product.

Dataproducts, meanwhile, has taken an entirely different approach to the problem by using "solid" blocks of ink to produce the final output.

The Dataproducts SI 480 solid ink printer, for example, uses this patented technology to offer high-quality print without the traditional limitations of ink jet printing. It's special solid ink allegedly prevents clogging of the printhead and gives sharp characters, irrespective of the quality of the print medium.

There are two types of inks most commonly used with ink jet printers — water-based and oil-based. Water-based inks are the most popular and are used

on many ink jet printers. But these inks are sensitive to paper type and — unless you use exactly the type of paper they need — you can get grey, ragged-looking characters.

Oil-based inks, on the other hand, do not dry at the point from which they come out of the printer — but drying times vary with different paper types and this can lead to smudged, dark or jagged printing.

It was with these concerns in mind that Dataproducts set about its designing its SI 480 — which offers a speed of 480 characters per second while still using the solid ink technology.

The Dataproducts SI 480 is different from most in that it uses a solid ink pellet, which comes in a small cartridge. The ink is heated until it liquefies before it is ejected from the printhead. When the ink drop hits the paper, it penetrates sufficiently to give secure adhesion, but solidifies rapidly, preventing flow along the paper fibres. This gives excellent print quality, irrespective of type of paper.

Trials have given good quality print on high quality papers, newsprint, transparencies and even sandpaper. In addition, some of the ink remains above the surface of the paper, giving it a high-quality, embossed feel — much like an engraved invitation. The solid ink does not evaporate from the printhead, so there is no clogging and consequently a high reliability.

At a speed of 480 CPS (characters per second), the printer produces output at 240 x 240 dots per inch — close to the resolution of most laser printers. At 240 CPS, however, the horizontal resolution of the printer rises to 480 dots per inch — yielding a much richer print quality.

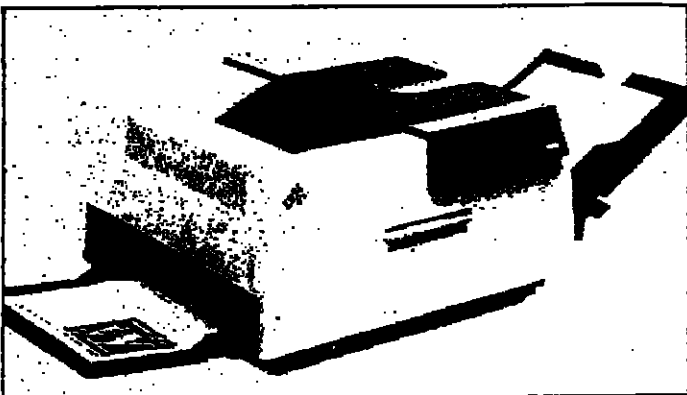
This means that a normal business letter will take between 13 to 25 seconds to print at the lower speed and between 8 to 15 seconds at the higher speed. Not only is the SI 480 much quicker than a daisy-wheel printer, but it is also quieter.

Laser Printers

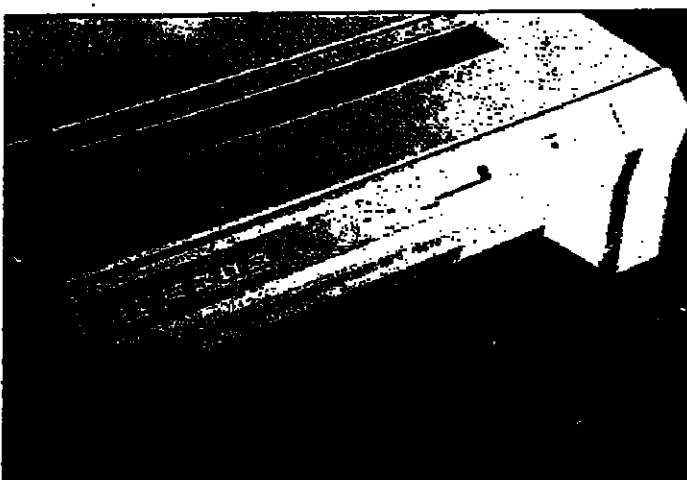
The most popular alternative to dot-matrix printing is the laser printer. Laser printers provide high-resolution, quiet and fast print output using technology that was originally developed for photocopiers.

But instead of the information about what type of image should be produced coming from a lens inside the photocopier, it comes via a "page description language" from the computer you connect to it.

Laser printers are often the centrepieces of desktop publishing systems — where they are either used to produce the finished product for a newsletter or brochure or provide a low-cost solution to making page proofs of a magazine or book.



Laser printers are the most popular choice as 'page-proof' output devices for DIP systems. Most however, still lack the necessary sharpness for full-blown typesetting.



The data products SI 480 is one of the few ink-based printers to use solid-ink cartridges rather than fluids, to provide final output.

'Remote servicing' avoids expensive service calls

SINIX systems spreading world-wide

SINIX computers are successful throughout Europe. And not without reason, as more and more users come to appreciate the insurance for the future offered by world-wide open systems.

The SINIX operating system meets the standards, being the Siemens version of UNIX.

And UNIX is now a world standard for multi-user computers. If you opt for this standard, you can transport your applications programmes to other computers; you are not restricted to any particular hardware.

This initial advantage has already borne fruit: already, there is a vast amount of software available to run under UNIX. Programmes aplenty for every application, with more appearing every day.

The X/Open group, of which Siemens is an active member, ensures that the UNIX standard expands steadily.

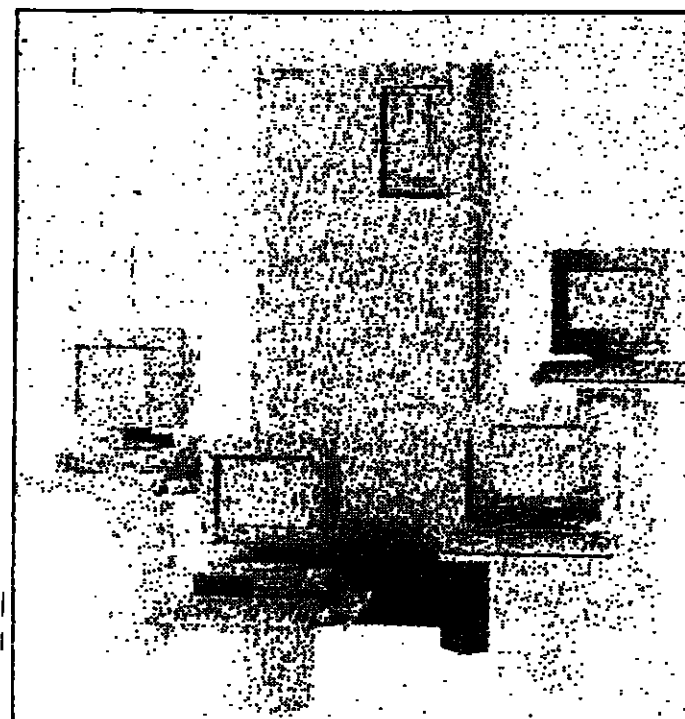
This guarantees additional security and independence for the SINIX user, as SINIX conforms to the X/Open standards.

A typical UNIX system cannot conceal its origins in scientific and technical computing. UNIX users often have to struggle with strange and complicated system commands.

Which is why Siemens has overlaid the operating system with a handy "front end". This user interface originally consisted of a menu structure. Now it has developed further: the COLLAGE graphics front end with window techniques and a mouse make working with a computer child's play. And this is really only the beginning — from a graphics point of view.

Siemens has taught multi-user computers to use office graphics. Instead of handing out columns of dry and dusty figures, the user can present the results of his calculations graphically, or bring documents to life with simple computer-generated sketches.

That is why the mouse has become a permanent resident on the desk, next to the keyboard. The mouse helps not



The X20 is a powerful single user system with all the conveniences of the SINIX operating system.

only with drawing, but also for programme control. What distinguishes the SINIX family:

The most important characteristic of a computer series that can justify calling itself a family is the unrestricted compatibility of data and programmes.

All SINIX computers can exchange data with each other without any trouble — whether on diskette, data cassette, or via a network. And every programme runs on every computer.

Operation is also a family matter. You notice at first glance that the monitors, keyboards, and peripherals are the same throughout. Not only to outward appearances, but also in operation. The front end is the same right across the family.

The advantage for the user is that he always encounters the same system environment, and need not adapt when he moves to another computer. The employer saves having to

retrain his staff.

The third important feature: SINIX computers are masters at communicating. They are equally at home with a local-area network or over public lines, and cope with all the normal services like teletex, interactive videotex, or electronic mail to the X.400 standard.

A host computer at the other end of the line does not confuse a SINIX computer; communications protocols are built in for connections to all the common general-purpose computers.

Commercial data processing would be lost nowadays without data security.

SINIX computers have a multi-level security system that gives every user access to just the programmes and data for which he has authorization.

The UNIX standard is international, but SINIX speaks the user's language. Not just the manuals, but also the menus and system messages are available in English, French, or

Spanish — a total of nine different languages.

Last but not least, there is any amount of software for SINIX computers. With a choice of over 400 programmes, everyone can find what he needs.

The X20 is a powerful single-user system with all the convenience of the SINIX operating system. It is at home wherever a single-user computer is adequate, but the SINIX concept brings advantages that cannot be attained with normal PCs.

The MX2 represents an inexpensive entry to the world of multi-user computers. It serves up to six terminals at a time, and can keep four printers busy if required. Its abilities are much appreciated: it rapidly became the best-selling multi-user UNIX computer in Europe.

The MX300 is tailor-made for active teamwork. It has four times as much RAM as its smaller brother the MX2, and its disk capacity is also four times as great.

The MX500 is the top-end model of the SINIX family. Whether you want 10, 25, or even 64 terminals, there is an MX500 for the job. Up to twelve processors operating in parallel, up to 28 megabytes of RAM, and a maximum of 4.1 gigabytes of disk storage give it the performance of a small general-purpose computer.

There are SINIX systems in all parts of the world. Siemens' customer service is also a wide-spread network.

Expensive visits by service technicians can often be avoided with SINIX computers, thanks to remote servicing. The repair man can "look into" the computer by telephone, and correct minor faults rapidly and economically without leaving his workshop.

Everything tallies with Siemens: powerful hardware, the SINIX operating system, the many applications programmes, and the service as well. That's what makes Siemens so inimitable.

Introducing

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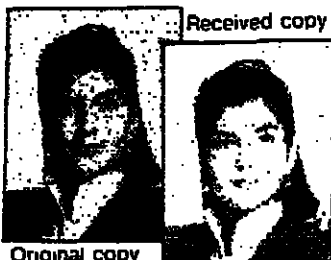
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By Safdar Husain

MORE and more organizations are using computers to streamline their operations, keep management informed to give them a competitive edge in a market where information is a strategic resource.

As organizations grow, their need for computer power increases. What was initially adequate computer power, is often barely able to keep pace with the growing business operations. There is a need for more throughput, higher performance, quicker solutions. There is also a need to look into growth options.

These include processor, memory and I/O expansion. Within the framework of the original computer configuration, there is almost always room for growth. The vendor organization is quite happy to work with the customer to provide the growth path.

A stage is often reached where the growth potential of the computer system is fully utilized. The customer's applications may still require more power. At this point some hard choices must be made. A computer upgrade, which in many cases also involves software upgrade, is a costly affair. Customers want to protect their investment and at the same time want to be able to upgrade, group and regroup their computers to get the most productivity out of their investment.

Solutions

Two of the leading solutions, which have emerged over the past few years, are networking and clustering.

Networking, at its simplest, is the interconnection of computers within a building, company site, factory premises or university campus. Here, it is called a local area network (LAN). A wide area network (WAN) achieves the same function but over a much wider area with more complicated protocols and catering for a much greater variety of services.

A LAN can be designed in any one of several ways which are available from various vendors. It can be a ring or closed loop in which messages are sent in both directions. This ensures that a node will remain connected unless two individual links fail.

A LAN can be in the shape of a star network where a central computer serves as the focal point. Here, redundant systems can protect the system from failure. A LAN can be a mesh network which provides more than one path to each node, thus providing a flexible communication system proofed against circuit failure. A LAN can be in the form of a "backbone" cable to which connections are required. Here, a single point of failure cannot shut down the system.

The use of local area networks has gained its greatest momentum with the proliferation of personal computers.

Combining computer power for improved performance, reliability

Many vendors supply LAN solutions which are server based i.e. the control software resides on the server which could be a dedicated personal computer or microcomputer.

The advantage is the sharing of personal computer files and applications. Here the individual users can exercise control on which of their files can be accessible to other users.

The greatest advantage of networking is that extensive resources (e.g. a high speed printer) can be shared. In addition, the sharing of files and databases is possible.

Route

No matter what route is taken to create a heterogeneous, company-wide computing environment, optimal support can be provided to users by distributing resources along a unified network that serves the organization as a whole.

The network may start out as a single ethernet local area network serving one office building. Over time, it can be expanded, using wide area networks (WAN) technology to cover any geographical area and to include multivendor systems.

Networking makes distributed computing faster by providing immediate communication throughout the organization, whether the connection is local, remote, or over a wide area. Applications or data can be transferred from system to system.

Also, a central copy of the applications and data can be kept in one location for easy maintenance, while providing users with network access over their local systems.

Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) is the world's largest manufacturer of networked computer system. Every DEC computer is designed as a network computer and DEC networks service over one million users. In more than 12,000 customers sites, computers built by other vendors have been integrated into DEC networks.

Networking has its benefits and advantages — up to a point. At one time it was said that networking would mean the demise of the minicomputer. The theory was that many microcomputers, if networked together, would have the computing capacity of a minicomputer, and therefore the minicomputer would die as a breed. This theory was like that of joining together many vanettes in order to eliminate the need of trucks. The theory has not materialised. The minicomputer is alive, well and healthy.

The basic problem is how to add more power to the com-

puter particularly in organizations, requiring more computer horsepower (e.g. transaction processing, CAD/CAM or image processing.) This is compounded by the fact that new versions of operation software keep coming and users want the ability to add new architectures at will without having to throw away older systems and, more significantly, re-write their applications.

Answer

The answer has come in the form of clustering of computers. Put in its simplest terms, a cluster is a collection of processors, each running its own version of operation software (VMS), but sharing common disk and system resources.

If an application has exhausted its available processor power, it becomes simply a matter of adding another processor to the cluster. Thus you do not have to throw your older machines away but just keep on clustering them with the latest technology and architectures while all your applications continue to run unaltered.

Besides ease of installation, this concept gives customer sites access to all the latest architectures and chip technologies without having to change file structures, operating systems and applications.

The clustering approach allows users to start with a small machine and grow to any size they wish to. It does not lock them into any given architecture. Any new technology can be added as an upgrade to the cluster. Clustering allows sites to design in duplicate functions. If one CPU fails, you can still maintain the service on the other CPUs and your data is still intact. This fault tolerance is a major advantage of clustering. Failures — whether of single or multiple nodes or of disk controllers or disks produce manageable conditions.

Volume shadowing completes the Vaxcluster fault tolerance picture. Should a disk fail, the shadow volume will

automatically provide a fully up-to-date and instantly available backup.

The shadow volume is also usable for data retrieval at any time the prime disk is busy, so enhancing data access time. When we add to this hardware fault tolerance the cluster-wide software structures such as print and batch queue, application control and management systems (ACMS) and transaction processing, we have the possibility of complete hardware and failure recovery.

A Vaxcluster can comprise up to 16 nodes, meaning processors or HSC (hierarchical storage controller) controllers. They are joined together at a common point called the star coupler. The HSC disk and tape controllers are highly sophisticated units that relieve the Vax processors of much of the overhead associated with disk storage and management. They can even be used to perform disk backups. They perform optimization and other functions that enhance disk I/O performance by up to 20 per cent. Vax processors are interfaced to a cluster via the computer interconnect (CI) bus, which connects into the star coupler.

An ethernet LAN is composed of a coaxial cable with connection points along its length for units (processors, servers, clients, etc.) to be connected. Vaxclusters can be

viewed from ethernet LAN as a single service node and/or as multiple processor nodes.

In the first instance, connection to a session on a cluster will be preceded by CPU load balancing performed by a terminal server, and if a processor in a cluster is inoperative, connection is automatically made to an available processor.

Each processor node in the cluster runs its own "instance" of the operating system. However, certain system data files can be shared, namely the authorization, rights — list, network authorization and queue files.

Participating nodes can elect to have their own authorization files. However, a common definition of system users provides the mechanism for homogeneous cluster security. Data base files can be accessed from all processor nodes on a cluster. Full file — locking and file security are supported, allowing a single application to be run across multiple processor nodes.

There is an obvious attraction here to those seeking greater system fault tolerance because if a processor was to fail, a session could be continued on another node. With the RMS journaling facility, a processor failure leaves the database clean and the power of multiprocessor applications is magnified.

Scope

There is a great scope for combined hardware and software configuration design on a Vaxcluster, with such possibilities as a node dedicated to batch processing or a particular application accessing a cluster-wide database from a dedicated node.

Since each node executes the database monitor process but locks and security are handled cluster-wide, there is powerful implication for the design of large corporate databases. Such a database would use multiple disk drives, with Vaxclu-

ster nodes providing fault tolerant access to one, several or all of the corporate systems.

Vaxclusters can have a shared system queue file. This means that a printer physically connected to one processor can be accessed logically by all cluster nodes. Thus printers become a cluster-wide resource and fault tolerance is once again enhanced by the availability of physically separate printers. Batch queues can also be made cluster-wide. This means that a job submitted by one node may run against a cluster — common data base on another node. There is automatic CPU load balancing with least busy nodes nominated to run newly submitted jobs.

The integrity of a cluster is insured by a mechanism known as the quorum. This basically ensures that a given cluster cannot degrade into two or more clusters. Each node is given a number of votes which is always less than the number currently existing within the cluster. This ensures that a single cluster is maintained. Processor nodes can be removed or added to a cluster dynamically with only a short pause while the quorum is readjusted.

Advantage

One impressive advantage of clustering is that there is no need to take the system down when upgrading to another version of the operating software. It can be done one CPU at a time and different versions can co-exist on cluster.

For low-end Vax processors, there is the innovative Local Area Vaxcluster (LAVC) system approach which combines the benefits of networking and clustering. Previously isolated systems can now be integrated into a single, distributed computing environment with an Ethernet Local Area Network as a common interconnect for all systems.

In this system, up to 26 systems (e.g. MicroVaxII, Vaxstation 2000) can be connected as satellite members of a Local Area Cluster. Up to 13 satellites can be serviced by a single operating system which is installed on the central or "boot" node. System resources and members can be installed in response to changing workgroup

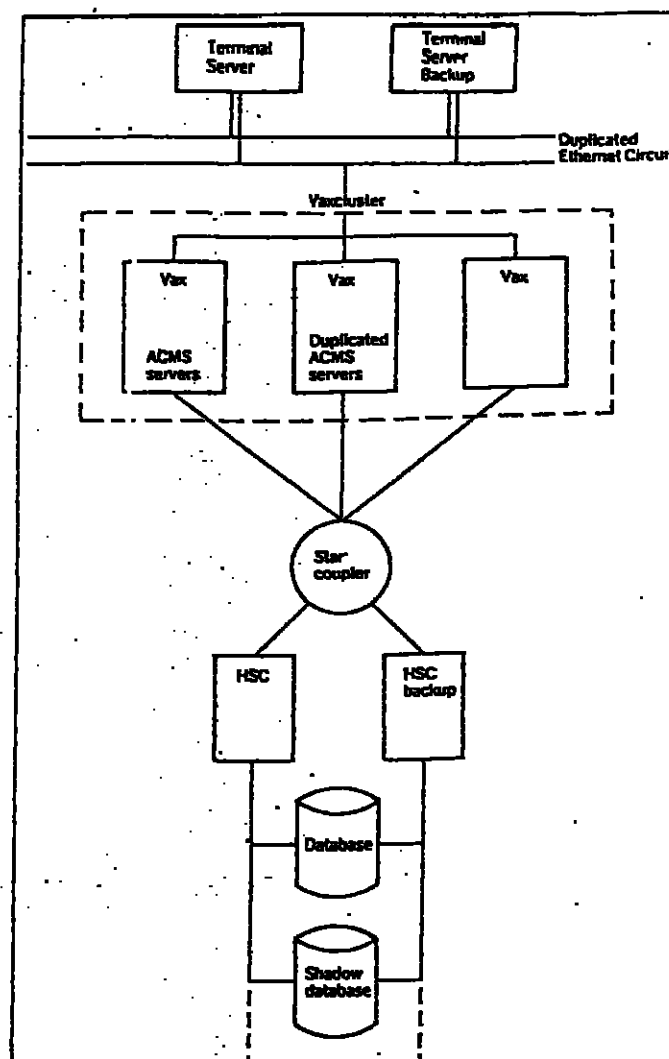


Diagram of a duplicated, fault-tolerant Vaxcluster configuration.

needs.

In a local area Vaxcluster system, all system installation and maintenance as well as system backups, are performed centrally by one system manager. Users, freed of these tasks, can then devote their time and attention to solving business problems.

Any authorised user can gain access to any disk, whether on the boot node or on a satellite member. Data is shared at the record level, rather than on the file level, ensuring that multiple users can access the files for concurrent read/write access. The VMS operating system software manages file update, concurrence and data integrity issues.

The same distributed lock manager, as in larger Vaxclusters, provides record — level data sharing in the Local Area Clusters. The same distributed job queue manager allows load leveling of batch and print jobs. The same centralised system management features are provided.

The above description illustrates how the investment of customers in both hardware and software can be protected and a single, consistent computing environment can be provided that gives users transparent, record-level, data sharing capability coupled with distributed processing incremental growth opportunities and high fault tolerance.

Computer power growing...

Continued from Page 7

ticular book will have an access to that book, if it is available in any library of the country.

The NCMC has also succeeded in Arabising a package script which has given the facility of advanced printing of Arabic characters. With this package, for the first time in history all kinds of traditional Arabic scripts (for example Kufi or Riqua) can be printed exactly in their real form. "Now we can really make use of our laser printers, which so far we were able to do only partially," says Al Zayed confidently.

According to Sulaiman, since this package prints Arabic letters with correct shapes and positions and is running under VM and MVS, many other users such as banks and offices can make use of it. "This is really something the Arab world needed for a long time" says Sulaiman.

Presently the NCMC is also involved in evaluating fourth generation languages and data bases, and also microfilming the Kuwait Al Youm Directory, the civil laws of employment (all the three volumes) and all the daily newspapers of Kuwait and these microfilms as well as the Arabic script package are available for use for interested parties in the country.

The National Computer and Microfilm Centre is also in charge of training the whole of the government sector. It also undertakes the training of staff for banks and some other private organisations as well as personnel from other Gulf countries.

"In this regard," Sulaiman says, "We have trained over 4700 people during the last ten years, whereas 889 people were trained during 1988 only, out of which 602 or 68 per cent were Kuwaitis."

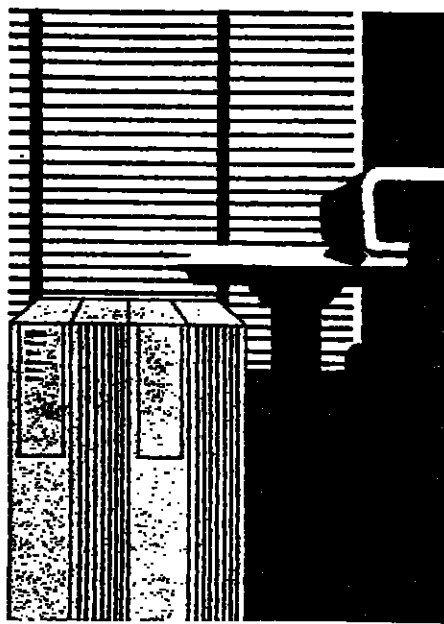
Regarding computerisation in other ministries, Sulaiman says, "they are free to develop their own dedicated systems and buy smaller computers for themselves, of course after consulting us. We at NCMC work more like a service bureau and look after the national systems only, but we help other ministries and government offices in planning and developing their future applications."

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By Ryan Davis - Wright

A computer is meant to be opened up

What's inside your PC

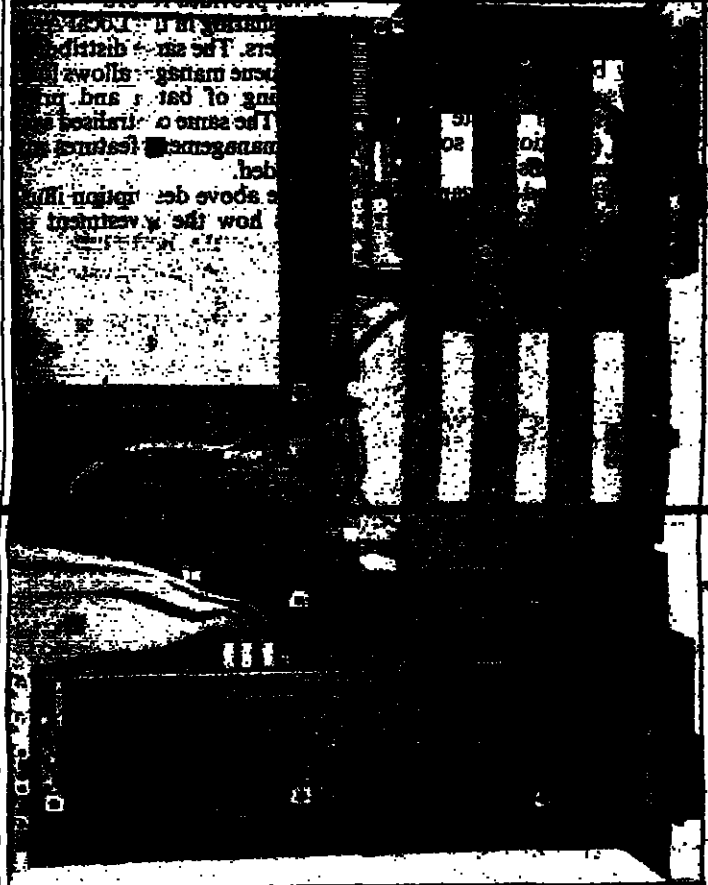
FOR some people, opening up a computer and looking inside is a journey into the unknown. But a computer, unlike a stereo or VCR, is meant to be opened up. By becoming acquainted with its components, you can get more out of your system, make smarter upgrade decisions, and in case something goes wrong — as it will sometime in your computer's life — be better able to describe your problem to a repair person.

In this article, I'll take you on a guided tour through three typical PC systems: the Leading Edge Model D PC, with an 8088 microprocessor; the Clone 286, with an 80286 microprocessor; and the Delta Premier, with an 80386 microprocessor.

We'll investigate the system board, expansion slots, floppy and hard disk drives, and the power supply, so that you'll be able to locate these parts in each type of PC.

Getting inside
The first challenge is to open your computer. If the computer has a hard drive, you first need to park its heads in a place on the disk where they will not damage any data.

Most hard drives come with a programme for doing this, variously called Park, Headpark, Diskship, Shipzone, or whatever. On an AT computer, the setup programme sometimes has a park option. Turn off your computer and unplug it from the outlet. Then unplug the monitor and keyboard from the computer. Move the monitor and keyboard out of the way. The following instructions assume the computer is powered off.



- DELTA PREMIER 386**
- 1 System board
 - 2 CPU chip
 - 3 Math coprocessor socket
 - 4 RAM chips
 - 5 BIOS chips
 - 6 Expansion slots
 - 7 Controller board
 - 8 Controller cables
 - 9 Hard disk drive
 - 10 Power supply

cover are usually at the rear of the computer, holding the corners and top.

Some computers have screws along the sides, instead. After taking them out, put the screws in a safe place where you can easily find them. Slide off the cover.

Before you start poking around in the PC, you should be careful of static electricity, one of a computer's deadliest enemies. You can easily zap an electrical component and never know it. So, before you touch or take out any boards, always ground yourself by touching an unpainted piece of the metal computer chassis. And while you are examining the inside, don't scuff your feet on the carpet.

Most computers are built in a standard way, whether they be a PC, AT, or an 80386. When you are standing at the front of the computer (with the drives on your right), the open area on the left is for the expansion boards, the system board lies underneath them on the bottom of the case, the floppy disk and hard drives are on the right, and the power supply is behind the drive units.

To better see what is in the system, you need to remove all the expansion boards except the disk controller board (if you have one). You can recognise this board by the cables running from the board to the rear of the disk drives.

To locate the other boards,

Ever wondered what's inside that gray box? Roll up your sleeves and get ready to plumb the depths of your PC.

remove the screws that attach the boards to the PC at the left rear of the computer. Next, ground yourself and, holding the boards at both ends, rock them from end to end to lift them out. Again, keep the screws in an easy-to-find place. **System board, CPU, and math coprocessor**

The system board, or motherboard, is the large integrated circuit board on the bottom of the computer. It is the brains of the computer, and it holds the CPU, RAM, and other chips.

Although you can easily identify a CPU chip (2) by its markings, finding it can be difficult. Its location on the system board varies from computer to computer, but you can usually find it by looking for the largest chip on the board. The microprocessor type is clearly identified on the chip by an 8088-X, 80286-XX, or 80386-XX inscription. (The Xs represent the chip's version number). The 8088 chip is square; the 80286 is also square but larger than an 8088 chip.

The socket for the math coprocessor chip (3) is usually located beside or very near the CPU socket. On a PC, XT, or AT, the socket for the math chip is long and narrow (much like the socket for the 8088 processor). On an 80386 machine, however, the 80387 chip socket is square and about the same size as the 80386 chip.

RAM
The RAM chips (4) are the memory of the computer. They are usually arranged in rows, called banks, on the system board, with nine chips (sometimes eight, as on Tandy computers) in each bank. The board usually holds three to

four banks of chips, depending on the configuration.

Many PC systems use a combination of 256K chips and 64K chips to equal 640K of RAM. Some PCs, such as the Leading Edge, use two banks of 256K chips (512K) and split another bank of 256K so that it fills in half of MS-DOS's 640K maximum and half supports a RAM disk. The Clone 286, like most AT computers, has four banks of 256K, for a total of 1MB of memory (640K for DOS and 384K for extended memory). Most 80386 computers hold 1-2MB of memory; the Delta Premier, for example, has five banks of soldered-in memory, which is split between one row of 256K chips and four rows of 4-bit 64K chips, for a total of 1MB.

Memory chips are rated for their access speed: The lower the number, the faster the RAM. By looking at the markings on the chips, you can identify their ratings. For instance, a chip labeled 256-15 is a 256K chip with a speed rating of 150 nano-seconds (ns).

BIOS
The BIOS's (5) functions are performed by chips that have been programmed with a set of instructions. These chips provide low-level system functions and compatibility with the IBM PC standard. BIOS chips, like CPU chips, can be anywhere on the system board. Most of the time, however, the sockets are in the middle of the system, where you can easily reach them after taking out the expansion boards.

The number of BIOS sockets you have depends on the computer. The original IBM PC had five sockets (only two were used). Many XTs, like the Leading Edge, use only one

BIOS socket out of two. Most ATs and 80386 computers, like the Clone 286 and the Delta Premier, use only two of the available four BIOS sockets.

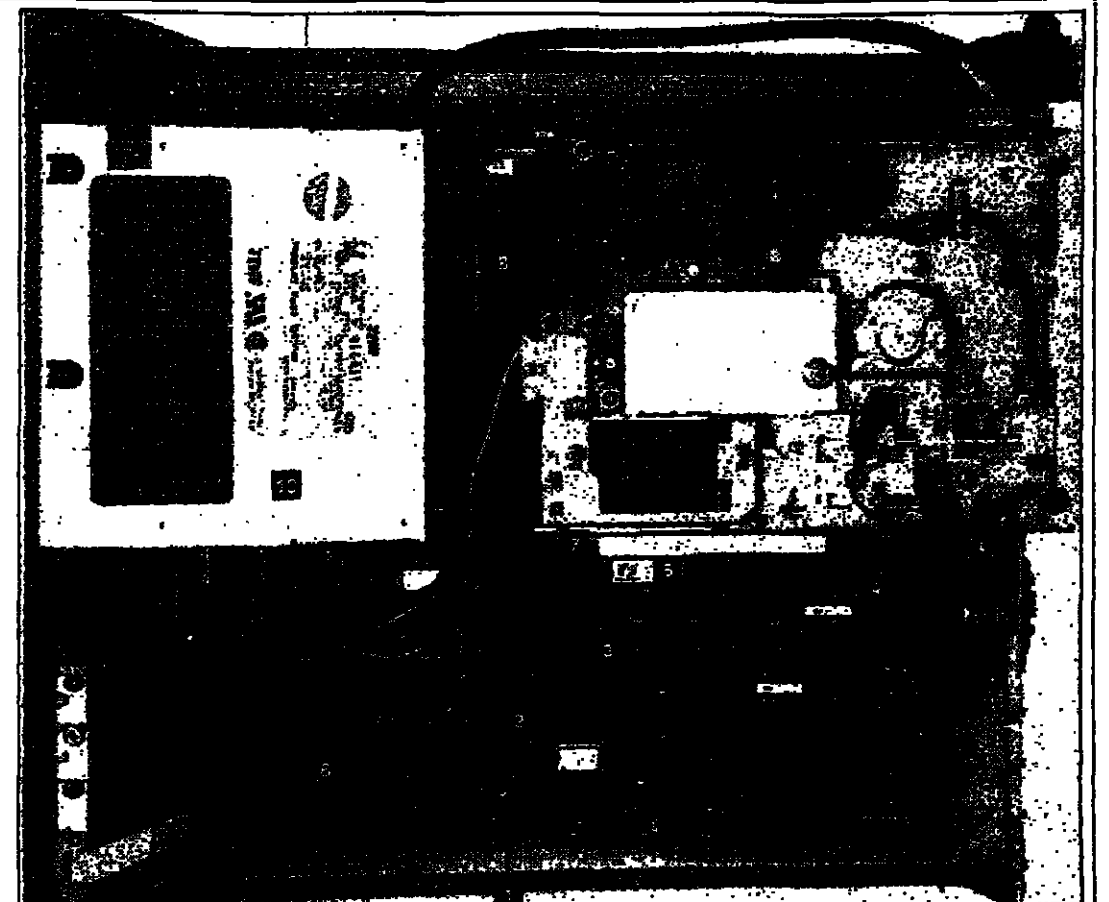
BIOS chips are usually labeled with the name of the manufacturer and a version number matching the number that appears on screen when you boot up the computer. Since the BIOS is a software programme in a chip, the chips are always in a socket, where they can be replaced with a later BIOS version.

Expansion slots
The expansion slots (6) are the connectors on the system board into which you plug the video, memory, multifunction, and hard disk controller boards.

They are usually located at the rear of the computer near the expansion ports. A PC or XT system like the Leading Edge uses 8-bit slots, which have a 62-pin connector. An AT like the Clone 286 has an assortment of 8-bit and 16-bit slots; the 16-bit slots each have a 36-pin connector located in line with the 8-bit, 62-pin connector.

Like an AT, an 80386 computer has 8-bit and 16-bit connectors. The 80386 machines have at least one 32-bit connector for a dedicated memory board. These 32-bit connectors vary from machine to machine. Each manufacturer uses its own proprietary 32-bit connector for memory.

Disk controller and cables
The original IBM PC required its own floppy disk controller board. Now, most



PCs have the floppy controller integrated into the system board. The ribbon cables that run from the system board to the rear of the floppy drives are the controller cables.

The hard disk controller is not included in the system board; you have to add a board if you are going to add a hard disk.

Both ATs and 80386 com-

puters, like the Clone 286 and the Delta Premier, usually use a combined floppy/hard disk controller board. The hard drive cables run from the controller board to the rear of the drives. (On the Delta Premier, we detached the cables from the drives). Each hard drive has two cables attached from the controller: a wide 34-pin cable and a smaller 20-pin cable. A 360K floppy drive is connected with a 20-pin connector.

Floppy and hard drives
The floppy and hard disk drives are located in compartments called drive bays. The drives are held in place in different ways. Most PC and XT drives have side screws that hold them in place (see the Leading Edge photo). ATs, like the Clone 286, and 80386s have slide rails with front-mounted screws.

Some computers, such as the Premier, use a latch mechanism to hold in the drive; you just push in the metal tab on the side and the drive slides out as slick as a whistle.

You can usually tell what kind of floppy drives you have by looking at the rear of the drive where the controller cables are connected. Although

Some computers, such as the Premier, use a latch mechanism to hold in the drive; you just push in the metal tab on the side and the drive slides out as slick as a whistle.

CLONE 286

- 1 System board
- 2 CPU chip (underneath drive)
- 3 Math coprocessor socket (underneath drive)
- 4 RAM chips
- 5 BIOS chips
- 6 Expansion slots
- 7 Controller board
- 8 Controller cables
- 9 Hard disk drive
- 10 Power supply

- LEADING EDGE MODEL D PC**
- 1 System board
 - 2 CPU chip
 - 3 Math coprocessor socket
 - 4 RAM chips
 - 5 BIOS chips
 - 6 Expansion slots
 - 7 Controller board (integrated into the system board)
 - 8 Controller cables
 - 9 Floppy disk drives
 - 10 Power supply

it can be difficult fighting your way through the cable mess, you should find a label with the name of the manufacturer and the model number. Hard drives also have an identifying label that is usually on the flat surface on top or at the rear.

Power supply
The power supply is usually a square metal box situated behind the drive units. The label on top often displays the power rating in watts. The rating tells you how much power is available for your system to use, which includes the system board, all expansion boards, and the floppy and hard disk drives. Most PCs and XTs have a supply rated for 85-150 watts. ATs have larger units in the range of 150-200 watts.

Now that you've examined the insides of your PC, put the boards back in, replace the cover, plug the computer in, and turn on the power. Your computer should work just as before, but now you know a lot more about its components. The next time you need to go into your computer, whether to perform an upgrade or to decipher a problem, you will feel like a veteran when you open the case.

A fascinating area of research

Is AI really achievable?

By Keith Devlin

IS artificial intelligence achievable? Will we ever be able to build computer systems that can display as much intelligence as ourselves? Will we be able to construct a robot that is the equal of, say, a trained sheepdog? No one really knows.

That is one of the reasons why artificial intelligence is such a fascinating area of research, and such a controversial one.

Doubtless part of the reason for the continuing controversy lies in the (to many) inflammatory name "artificial intelligence." If the subject is conceived as originating with its name, then Stanford professor John McCarthy is the father of the subject.

He is certainly responsible for a great many of the significant advances that have been made in the area.

In 1956, when a young assistant professor of mathematics at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, McCarthy teamed up with his friend Marvin Minsky, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to organize a conference.

McCarthy proposed that "a two-month, ten-man study of artificial intelligence be carried out during the summer of 1956 at Dartmouth College. The study is to proceed on the basis of the conjecture that every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can in principle be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it."

This was not the first time that such ideas had been put forward. Although not primarily concerned with the actual construction of machines, the nineteenth-century logician George Boole had spent many years trying to for-

malise the "laws of thought" in a precise, mathematical fashion.

Indeed, he was so successful that the ideas Boole developed nowadays play a key role in the design of computer systems.

The famous wartime code breaker and computer builder, Alan Turing, also put forward the hypothesis that it would "soon" be possible to programme computers that could exhibit intelligent behaviour.

But it was that particular phrase "artificial intelligence" in McCarthy's proposal that caught the attention of the rest of the scientific community, to say nothing of the world's press, and thereby established a new field of research.

The fundamental idea was that, following the same lines as Boole a century before, mathematical logic could be used as a framework in which formal rules of intelligence could be written down and fed into a computer.

In 1961, McCarthy moved to Stanford University in California, where he helped to set up the Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (SAIL), and developed a new computer programming language specially tailored for artificial intelligence work; Lisp.

Lisp is now one of the two programming languages most widely used in artificial intelligence, the other being Prolog. (Lisp comes from "list processing." Prolog for "programming with logic.")

That the grandiose aims originally conceived as the target of artificial intelligence research have not been achieved, can scarcely be disputed. Indeed one of the major lessons of just over 30 years work is that intelligence is a complicated business, not easily achieved by artificial

means.

And in case that last remark strikes you as obvious, remember that in two areas that had traditionally been regarded as requiring intelligence, computers can now equal and often surpass the abilities of humans: chess playing (where present day computer systems perform at Grand Master level) and arithmetic (where the computer has long since left the human brain in its wake).

So who can say with certainty just where the real difficulties lie? Or indeed what intelligence really is?

Logic

In fact, though McCarthy himself still holds true to the original idea of using mathematical logic as the major tool for the development of artificial intelligence, many others believe that a quite different approach is called for.

Thus a great deal of present day work involves close interaction between computer scientists, mathematicians, psychologists, linguists, neuroscientists and philosophers.

In the meantime, the ultimate goal of an intelligent computer seems as far away as ever, but artificial intelligence has led to some advances of real use in the everyday world.

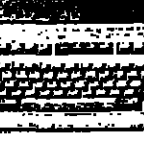
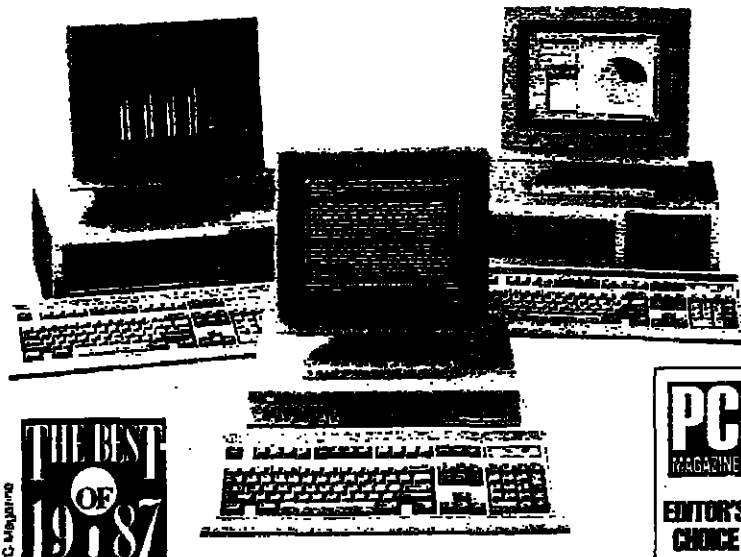
These include in the form of so-called "expert systems", and computer-aided learning programmes, that hand over to the computer a great deal of the role of an expert (such as a geologist or a doctor) or a teacher.

In an age of short term goals and "instant" success, the pursuit of artificial intelligence might, in the end, prove to be a hopeless task. But in the long run, one thing should ensure continuing work on the problem: curiosity about our world and ourselves.

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For absolute beginners

IT'S surprising how many people are still afraid of computers, even after their virtual takeover in the office and in the home computer revolution. A good deal of uncertainty still exists over what a computer actually is, what it does, and perhaps more importantly, what it does not do.

In my days as a systems analyst/programmer working for a major electronics concern in the UK, I met electronic design wizards who didn't seem to understand why their Sinclair ZX80, at the very bottom of the home computer market in both price and worth couldn't do the same as an ICL mainframe, supporting around 360 terminals dotted around the UK.

Since those days home computers have become significantly more sophisticated, and a bewildering variety of machines, peripherals and software packages are available.

In my own experience of training others to use particular systems or hardware, I found that it was usually something the computer-literate thought was obvious that was the largest stumbling block for the newcomer. Fortunately the manual-writers woke up to this fact, and whereas ten years ago, only the very optimistic would turn to the manual for a comprehensible answer to a problem, usually today this can be considered a fairly sensible step.

Not everybody or every business needs a computer. Often more cost-effective solutions can be found, or a cut corner could save valuable time. The first step in considering computerisation must be an analysis of what you hope to gain by buying a computer. It is silly to make the all too common mistake of assuming that any computer has to be better than no computer.

Mistake
One UK company made a major mistake several years ago. As a market leader in pump components, this nevertheless small company had decided that everything would go much more smoothly if only they computerised. So out they went and bought a small mainframe from a very reputable manufacturer who happened to be based just down the road.

But cost proposals had to go to the board for approval, and they opted for the smallest computer the company made, which turned out to be a laughable 10K machine the size of a washing machine. When one considers that around this time it was possible to buy a minute 1K home computer from Sinclair with the capacity to upgrade the memory to 16K, it is obvious how ill thought out this decision was.

To compound the mistake,

Are you illiterate where computers are concerned? Gail Seery takes you through the maze in this jargon-free article for the uninitiated.

members of the fledgling DP department — all to be retrained from other functions within the company, went around the building trying to win over their colleagues to the idea, by promising the newest technology, including online databases for stock control, bill of materials, purchasing and sales, not to mention payroll and personnel applications. This was very silly. In due course the machine was installed and commissioned, and people began to ask when they were going to see any benefits. The machine was simply not cut out to fulfill the functions the company had in mind because it did not have the memory capacity to support the applications desired. At the time I became involved with the machine, the management had seen the light and were replacing the machine with something more suitable.

A sensible approach would have saved a great deal of time, money and effort. Perhaps most damaging however, was the attitude of the workforce to computers. They had been promised the earth and had seen the computer fail time and time again. In any newly computerised area there tends to be a measure of hostility, usually as a result of basic lack of understanding of what the computer is intended to achieve. The DP department spent a long time trying to regain goodwill, whereas this had been present in abundance a few years earlier.

This need to evaluate your requirements applies just as much to the home or personal computer user as to businesses. If you need a word processing machine, the range of machines suitable is not necessary the same as if you only want a machine with a joystick for the kids to play games on. No reputable computer dealer will object to your asking questions, even if you think the answers may be obvious.

A lot of publications deal with home computers. Some of these cater to the "toy" market, providing articles about how to programme games (often with built-in flaws), while others cater for the personal computer market. It is a good idea to buy these and read through, even if you find the jargon off-putting. This will give you some idea of what software and what hardware is actually available, and what it will cost you. For those starting out, cost is usually an over-riding factor. It is not

really advisable to make this the ultimate factor however. As I illustrated above, it isn't a saving to spend less money on something that is of no use to you. When this happens, all too often the concept of computing is blamed instead of the limitations of your particular type of computer.

Users of the early Sinclairs — the ZX80 and 81 and the early Spectrum were put off by single key programming and touch sensitive buttons which weren't unless you hit them with a hammer, and turned away from home computers as a result. Around KD20 more expensive was the TI 99/4A, which was well worth the money and far more rewarding to use, not to mention a host of other, more capable machines, like the Commodore Pet.

If you want a machine to play with, you should consider trying one of the new breed of home computers like the Sinclair Spectrum, which with 128K, also has a host of software to boost it. This comes as just a keyboard with a disc drive — it connects to an ordinary television set. It is comparatively sophisticated, but does seem to have the same quality problems as other Sinclair products.

Sophisticated

In the PC market — for those who want something a little more sophisticated, and who aren't only interested in playing, the IBM compatible machines, the IBM PC itself, and other stalwarts like the Apple Macintosh seem to be the best bet.

I personally use an Amstrad PC1512, and have no complaints that can't be rectified by the purchase of a hard disc to quicken the machine's response time, or by a daisy wheel printer. The computer was comparatively inexpensive but has proved reliable and indispensable.

However, an appreciation of any particular machine depends very much on the particular software you opt to run. Business systems are widely available for IBM compatibles, which makes it good sense to at least consider one of these machines. Response times and reliability seem to vary considerably however, and most are imitations of the top runner IBM machine. Again the Apple Macintosh PC seems to be a very alluring machine.

If you are about to buy a PC,

check with your associates and find out what they are using. If possible try to see one in action. Only this way can you be certain of avoiding buying what you don't need.

In one respect Kuwait is in a slightly different position to the West in that copyright laws do not get applied to imported software, which means that a number of companies make quite a good living out of selling pirated software discs. Throwing aside the question of whether it is ethical to steal someone else's work in this way, it would seem that a lot of the discs sold so cheaply are of no use. A friend reports that of around 20 discs bought, only three or four actually work. Fine, it's been comparatively inexpensive to find out the hard way that protected discs tend to be exactly that unless you know either the password or a way round, or that the company didn't copy the disc properly, or even that the package doesn't suit you, or that the disc is one of a set of five, or the wrong one for using on your computer system, or that it is damaged, but the only one the company has.

Computer viruses have been very much in the news over the recent months, and a lot of blame has been attached to corrupt pirated software. Apparently there are no such viruses currently in Kuwait, but I would not like to lose every item of data I possess because a dinar a disc sounded like good sense.

It seems to be more sense to pay the extra money and buy good software — your machine can only be as good as the systems you use. This brings you back into a need to evaluate exactly what you require, and this is by no means always as straightforward as you might expect. Once again it's as well to ask others about their experiences. Not every package will suit every requirement you have, and it's as well to find out which these are before you buy them. The other point is that pirated software comes without a manual. This is fine if you already know the system concerned, or the system is a bog standard one, but having the answer at your fingertips certainly helps, and therefore original software, albeit at a greater cost, is more useful for the beginner.

Experience

Assuming you have your new computer, it is vital to set up exactly as explained in the manual. This is almost always clearly laid out in step by step instructions. And the only true way to get to know your computer and its software applications is to use it as much as possible.

Whenever you use your computer remember to think before

the person copied, which may not always be wise.

Watch your tone. Email messages can be ambiguous. They are often as informal as a phone call but you can't gauge the other person's reaction as easily, so take extra care.

Keep up appearances. Because of the informality of email, many people assume presentation doesn't matter. The opposite is true. Since it is harder to read messages on screen, your email will make a better impression if it's easy on the eye.

Keep paragraphs and sentences short. Try setting the line-width at around 65 characters, so as not to overcrowd the screen (though some people find it more cost effective to use the full 80-character width).

Meaningful replies. When you reply to a message (particularly if you have left it a few days) make the context clear.

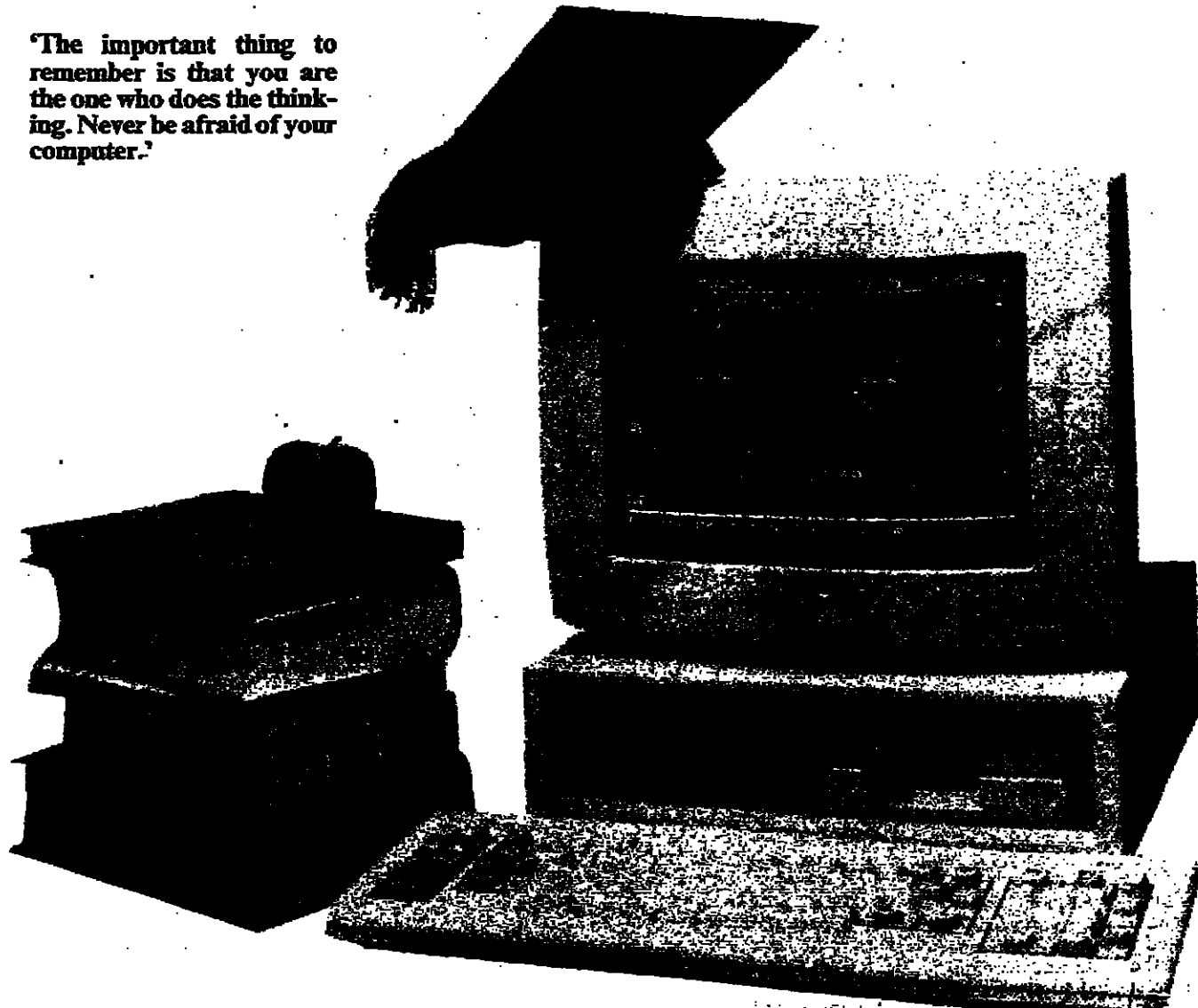
If someone writes "Can you attend a management meeting on August 23rd?" don't just email back "Yes." The sender may have forgotten the question resulting in bafflement.

Either reply "Yes, I can attend the August 23 meeting" or use the "append reply" command (AP REPLY) which tacks your reply onto the original message.

Stream of consciousness. Messages are better composed off-line on your micro. Typing online, knowing that you are paying for online time, may make you express yourself in too hurried a way. Messages which end "this may sound like gobbledygook but I am sure you know what I mean" would have benefited from superior off-line word processing facilities and a few more minutes thought about composition.

Whether email etiquette is observed or not, as messages can be sent instantly and efficiently, the most bad mannered thing one email user can do to another is to send him or her a letter in the post!

The important thing to remember is that you are the one who does the thinking. Never be afraid of your computer.



you act. Back-up your discs by taking copies at strategic intervals. Discs have limited life spans and it is heartbreaking to find you have lost all your work. Don't rely too much on your computer unless you have adequate back-up. It is a good idea to have paper copies of anything important — this is standard practice in business world-wide. More than one person or business found itself paralysed by the Kuwait powercut last month. Large installations lost chunks of data, so learn from events and make sure you have a way of

recovering from even such a freak disaster.

Do be careful when backing up your discs. Make sure you obey your machine's instructions, or those in the manual. I speak from experience when I say that it can be just a little bit distressing to find that you just copied a blank disc onto another containing a month's work, thus wiping it out. This and similar silly errors happen with alarming regularity to almost everyone at some time or another. It is up to you to prove that you are clever. Make sure that you are an exception.

Finally, in my training days the hardest message I got across was that the computer is only a tool. It's a slightly more sophisticated version of the electronic calculator you have never heard anyone brag about just don't understand calculators," only, "I just don't understand computers." Computers certainly can make life easier, by taking away the strain of manual work. They can also be fun to play with. But they are not an end in themselves. Nor are they all powerful, all capable machines. Some machines might have abilities

that would astound you, but you are unlikely to meet the sort of computer you read about in newspapers or science fiction in the near future. Just because computer scientists have developed new and exciting features in their machines, it does not mean that your IBM compatible machine can necessarily do the same as the huge megahits with vast processing capacities.

The important thing to remember is that you are the one who does the thinking. Never be afraid of your computer.

By J. Shillingford

YOU wouldn't send an important business letter scrawled on pink, flowery notepaper, so why do the equivalent on electronic mail?

The etiquette for business correspondence dictates the type of paper and envelope that is acceptable, the way the letter is laid out on the page, and even the type of language that can be used. By contrast, there are no hard and fast rules governing email.

This is a welcome relief from agonising over when to use "yours sincerely" or "yours faithfully." But despite the relative informality of email, some practices are best avoided.

Here are some deadly sins of email etiquette, and how to avoid them.

Too many caps. Messages written entirely in capitals are harder to read. One-finger typists are big fans of upper case messages. If they only realised these are the email equivalent of shouting in someone's ear, they might consider a few extra key shifts worthwhile.

Unnecessary displays. One advantage of email is that it enables the same message to be sent to up to 500 people simultaneously. For example, a sales manager can send the same message to the whole sales force. But each person won't want to read through the names of the other 499 before getting to the message itself.

Always use the "noshw" command to suppress the list of recipients when you are sending to more than half a dozen people. Otherwise the recipients will get bored or annoyed, if not extremely angry.

Shotgun replies. When you need a quick reply, Telecom Gold has a "reply requested" command (RR) which forces the recipient to reply before going on to read the next message. Use this sparingly or the reply you receive might not be

Etiquette for electronic mail

the one you hoped for.

It is less intrusive to use the automatic acknowledgement request feature (AR) which tells you when your letter has been read. It also tells the recipient you know he's read it. This applies gentle pressure and encourages a faster response. But it is best used only the first time you mail someone, and for priority items.

Junk mail. Sending unwanted messages or advertising is the height of rudeness because the recipient pays to read his or her email.

Spirited users retaliate by returning the mailbox to the sender many times over. It's better just to forward the offender's details on to the email company for corrective action.

Postal addressing. Don't send messages with full name and postal address blocks and dates at the top. This looks rather archaic on email, wastes a lot of space, and is pointless. All the information you need is printed in each message header (along with the date) anyway. Postal addressing also means that the message will cost more to read (and send), and takes up more disc space if you file it.

Lossing control. Don't put the special control characters used by word-processing software (for example, to mark bold type) in your electronic messages, as they won't have the effect intended and the result may be annoying. Control characters in messages can do strange things to a terminal, such as putting it into inverse video, or clearing or momentarily locking up the screen. Always send plain ASCII (American standard code for information interchange) text files.

Crossed lines. Don't respond straight away to any message that makes you furious. When you reread it later, in a calmer frame of mind, you'll probably realise that you took it the wrong way.

Name names. Always start your message with the name of the intended recipient, and end with your own. This is friendlier. It also means that if a message is forwarded to another email user, it is still clear who wrote it to whom.

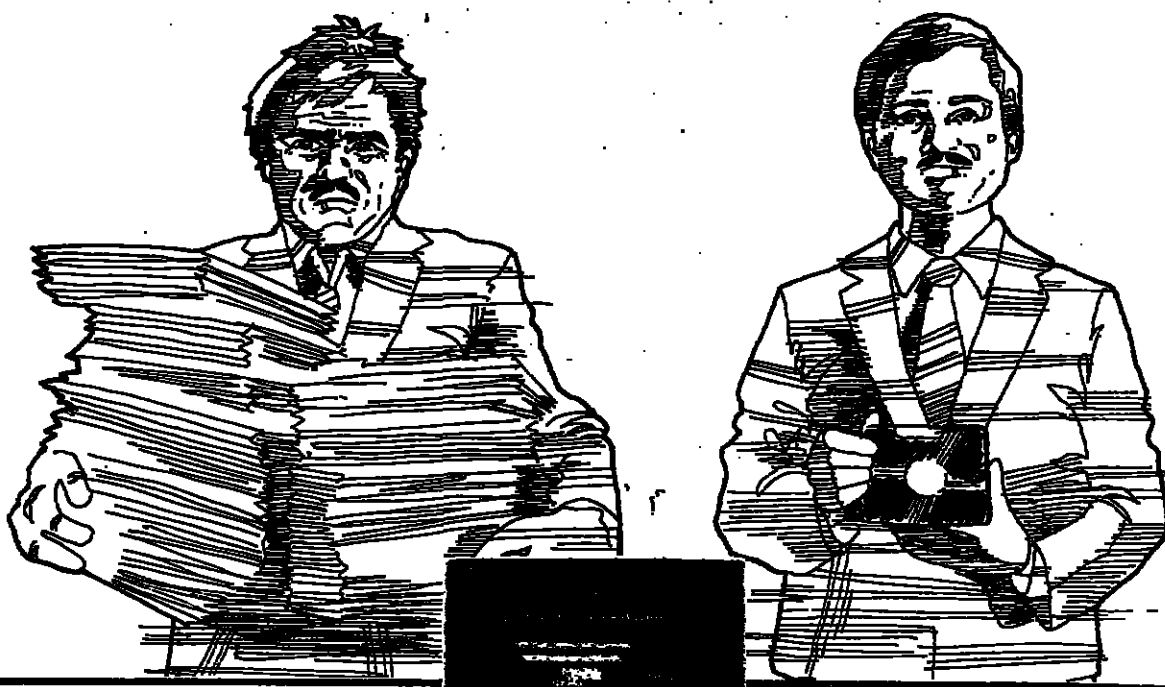
Using "dear" and "regards" is a matter of taste and typing speed, but it's good idea the first time you mail someone.

Telling titles. When someone scans their unread mail, this shows the title (the subject line) of each message. Make this as informative as possible so that the recipient can easily identify and sort mail. For example, use "Guardian text about email etiquette" rather than "Copy." Clear titles help with finding letters later, too.

Be a nice guy. Because email is person to person, users can express themselves more freely than with telex, fax or post. Nevertheless, it is still wise to be diplomatic about third parties. Users regularly forward messages to other people to share, say, useful information about a new product, forgetting that you included an unflattering description of the new product manager as well.

Sight unseen. You can send someone a "blind copy" (BC) of a message you have sent to someone else. The person who gets the "carbon" knows, but the named recipient doesn't know that someone else has seen the message. Sending blind copies creates an air of complicity between the sender and

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

We still face some difficulties in OPEC, says minister

Sheikh Ali sees oil stabilising above \$15 this year

KUWAIT, Jan 3, (Reuters): Kuwait's oil minister said today he expected oil prices to firm to \$15 to \$18 a barrel by the end of 1989 before stabilising for the next two or three years.

Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa, speaking to reporters accompanying British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on a nine-day Gulf tour, said he was optimistic OPEC members would honour quotas agreed at talks in Vienna in November.

But he admitted that what he called unforeseen circumstances could throw his price projection out.

"One can never be sure because anything could go wrong—a country or two would not abide by the quota," he said.

"Hopefully this would not happen... then one would be confident that by the end of the year prices would be in the range of \$15 to \$18," Sheikh Ali said.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed at Vienna to limit total output to 18.5 million barrels per day (BPD) for the first six months of 1989 and gave each of the 13 members an individual quota.

Consumption

Sheikh Ali said oil consumption had recently been rising by a much greater percentage than expected and he expected Gulf crude prices to firm to within a dollar or two of North Sea levels.

"I would hope that we would maintain levels around \$18 for a considerable time in the future,



Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa

for the next two or three years, and then whatever increases (happened after that) would have to be extremely gradual taking

into account only such things as inflation," he added.

Sheikh Ali said OPEC had learned that the large price increases of the past had been to its own disadvantage.

"It would be to the benefit of the organisation and its member countries to see moderate prices in the 1990s," Sheikh Ali said, adding that it was in OPEC's interest to abide by the agreed quota levels.

Pact

"Hopefully, people learn from past experience," he said.

Sheikh Ali said the Vienna meeting had solved a number of problems. But he added: "We still face some difficulties in OPEC. A lot of countries are today producing way below

capacity..."

The OPEC pact that came into effect on Jan 1 aimed to slash production by about four million BPD from December levels. It replaced a 1986 pact which was renewed three times and widely flouted.

Members of OPEC, which has a benchmark price of \$18 per barrel, have not released official figures on current output or on the size of cutbacks planned for January.

Oil Ministry sources in Baghdad said yesterday Iraq had cut its oil exports by 90,000 BPD to comply with its new OPEC output quota of 2.64 million BPD, the same as its Gulfwar foe, Iran.

Sheikh Ali said consumption was rising but added: "It will still

take two to three years for OPEC to reach a level of demand with which it can live comfortably.

"However, as demand picks up and we get into a range of 22 to 23 million barrels per day, we would be in a level of comfort and that piece of cake can easily be divided among the 13 member countries (of OPEC).

"It would be foolish to be primitive and try to eat your cake too early," Sheikh Ali said.

Middle East benchmark crude Dubai was at \$13.50 today after beginning the year at \$14.90, though still showing a recovery from a low of just below \$10 in late November. Its official price is \$17.42.

North Sea Brent crude was at \$16.30.

Dubai expects free trade zone to attract \$200 million

DUBAI, Jan 3, (Reuters): Dubai expects its free trade zone to attract \$200 million in 1989 because of the Gulf war ceasefire, the zone's chairman said today.

"The end of the Iran-Iraq war has boosted prospects for investments in the zone and foreign firms have started to stream in after a long hesitation," Sultan Bin Sulayem told reporters.

Some \$600 million have so far been invested in the zone—the Gulf's largest—since it was established in 1987.

Projects

He said the zone had received \$4 applications for projects since a UN-provoked ceasefire in the eight-year war took effect in August. Many of the ships attacked during the conflict were hit off Dubai.

"The war was a major obstacle for development of our zone but now we are experiencing an investment onslaught, especially by American and Japanese businessmen," Sulayem said.

Japan is expected to set up one of its biggest projects in the Middle East this month, he said, but gave no details.

Ecuador to give priority to development of new oilfields

QUITO, Jan 3, (OPECNA): Ecuador will give priority to the development of newly-discovered oilfields in 1989, according to Minister of Energy and Mines Diego Tamariz.

He said at the weekend that Cepe, the state oil company, had discovered new fields which could add 35,000 BPD to 40,000 BPD in the medium term to national production.

Tamariz said stress would also be placed on the growth of the oil industry and economic resources would be made available for the development of refineries, especially the Esmeraldas facility.

The minister said there had been "some maintenance problems" at the refinery, the country's largest, and a commission formed to investigate the situation and what to do about it, was expected to present its findings shortly.

Steps

He said the government was taking all necessary steps to smooth out the difficulties experienced in the marketing of oil and gas, adding "these problems needed solutions in a short time if we are to avoid difficulties for the consumers."

He said the private sector should share the burden of managing the oil and energy sector with the state oil company, Cepe.

Iraq cuts oil exports to comply with OPEC quota

BAGHDAD, Jan 3, (Reuters): Iraq has cut its oil exports by 90,000 barrels per day (BPD) to comply with its new OPEC output quota of 2.64 million BPD, Oil Ministry sources said today.

Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al Chalabi promised last month to halt the trucking of 65,000 BPD through the Jordanian port of Aqaba and 25,000 BPD through Turkey as from Jan 1.

Members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in November in Vienna agreed to set total output for the first half of this year at 18.5 million BPD, around 20 per cent below November's estimated output.

The agreement gave Iraq and Iran equal quotas of 2.64 million BPD. Iraq refused to accept a quota lasting two years and insisted on parity with its Gulf war foe.

Economist expects Bush administration will boost confidence

Weak dollar makes US goods cheaper abroad

LONDON: Ian Francis glanced at a computer screen filled with green numbers as a disembodied voice squawks through a telephone speaker.

An unknown trader at another London bank offers to purchase United States dollars at a price of \$1.8520 per British pound, or sell them at \$1.8524 a pound.

Holding an order to sell more than \$9 million in exchange for pounds, he waits a little longer. Too long, it turns out, as he later accepts another offer and sells his lot of dollars for less than his bank, Morgan Grenfell, paid for them.

"If I lose the bank 20,000 dollars in a day it's annoying, but it's not the end of the world," Francis says. In fact, with four years' experience he is one of Morgan Grenfell's most successful traders and may earn the bank several times that amount in a day.

Like any other commodity, dollars are traded freely on an open market of financial institutions around the world. London's is the largest such market, with more than \$90 billion worth of currencies traded daily, almost all of which is in US dollars.

Chaos

"A lot of movement, in the exchange rates goes into the category of chaotic behaviour," says Edward Graham, a foreign exchange expert at the Washington-based Institute of International Economics. Dr Graham says that trends in exchange rates begin to make sense only in the long term.

The current cycle of long-term decline in the dollar began with the re-election of President Reagan in 1984, when Inter-

national bankers doubted whether the US economy could remain healthy when it was so heavily dependent on foreign credit to finance imports and government debt.

Many bankers now ask whether President-elect George Bush can restore confidence in the dollar.

"In 1984-85 we were all getting very, very nervous about an economy which was spending more than it was producing," said Michael Selby, an exchange-rate expert at the London School of Economics.

Cheaper

Dr Selby says these concerns remain unchanged. "The surprising thing is that nothing's been done about them," he says.

Selby adds, however, that the dollar may now be slightly undervalued when its purchasing power in the US is compared with the purchasing power of other currencies in their home markets.

However, this undervaluation itself reflects the doubts that bankers and financiers have about US economic policy.

A weak dollar makes US goods cheaper abroad, and this comparative advantage should eventually improve the US trade position and discourage the import of more expensive foreign goods.

But it also depreciates dollar assets held by foreigners and could make it more difficult to sell American securities to foreign buyers without raising interest rates.

Recent events affecting the value of the dollar include Bush's election, which sent the currency lower.

The dollar rose briefly against

foreign currencies when Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced that the Soviet Union intends to cut conventional arms and troops.

London bankers say US deficits in foreign trade and government spending left them pessimistic about any quick improvement.

"Now the markets are focussing purely on the twin deficits," says Michael Wilson, head of foreign exchange operations at Morgan Grenfell's London headquarters. "Markets can see no end to the current situation, and we see a further devaluation of the dollar."

Some analysts are talking about a \$2 pound this year, a decline in the dollar's value from what was almost parity between the two currencies four years ago. The drop in the dollar against the Japanese yen and the West German mark could be more dramatic.

Economist Duncan Squire at County NatWest Bank says that such forecasts are too pessimistic. He also sees the dollar weakening early this year but expects the Bush administration will boost confidence by taking some action on the deficit.

Concern

However, he adds another concern: the apparent lack of internal consensus on monetary policy. "There's uncertainty over Bush's policies, but there's also uncertainty over international policy since the G-7 agreements of 1985 and 1987 have lapsed," Squire says.

With volatile foreign exchange markets since the mid-1980s, the central banks of the leading non-communist industrial nations, known as the Group of Seven or

Soviet official promises price cuts on household goods

MOSCOW, Jan 3, (Reuters): Soviet consumers have been promised cuts of between 10 and 30 per cent on prices of important household goods in the New Year.

Ivan Gorbachev, deputy chairman of the State Committee on Prices, was quoted by the weekly Argumenty i Fakty last week as saying the cuts would apply to cloth, appliances and other goods and that 100 million roubles (\$165 million) was allocated in the budget to fund them.

He also dismissed rumours that price increases had been planned and said a campaign would begin in 1989 to boost output of low-priced items needed for children and by the elderly.

He said measures under discussion included incentives to turn out more cheap goods. "In particular, starting from 1989, state orders to light industrial enterprises foresee production of low-priced goods for children and elderly people."

The announcement appeared aimed at soothing fears that sweeping price reforms now

being drafted would particularly hit the old and families with children.

Gorbachev said the drafting of these reforms was nearly complete.

Soviet authorities have pressed ahead with plans to make industry self-financing and more competitive by next year, but the implementation of price reforms appears to have been put off until the start of the 1990s.

System

Few details of the planned new pricing system have emerged but it is certain to eliminate tens of billions of roubles in subsidies which keep food prices artificially low.

Inflation, price reform and the introduction of self-financing of enterprises since the beginning of 1988 have been the object of lively debate in recent months.

Some newspapers have expressed unease at the authorities' apparent unwillingness to discuss specific proposals pending completion of the draft.

Reports have shown that prices of some basic commodities have increased substantially in recent years, undermining the

long-held contention that they have been stable for decades.

Some commentators have argued against stiff price increases, saying that any rise in the cost of vital goods like fuel and food would create undue hardship for the poor.

Often enterprises simply stop making cheap products and shift production to more expensive ones.

Despite subsidies, a leading economist recently said that the average Soviet family spends 59 per cent of its income on food.

Valentin Pavlov, chairman of the State Committee on Prices, has stressed a need for rapid reform to provide incentives for producers and do away with subsidies in almost all industrial sectors.

The 100 million rouble figure cited by Gorbachev appeared to be relatively small in relation to the huge subsidies allocated to consumer goods and everyday needs.

Officials have also pointed out that although subsidies may be cut under the reforms, the effect of such reductions will be offset by compensatory measures.

Nickel prices could soar to record levels

LONDON, Jan 3, (AP): Soaring nickel prices, now at their highest levels in eight months, will likely reach record peaks early in 1989, commodity analysts Shearson Lehman Hutton said.

Panic has returned to the market on the back of renewed supply problems and strong demand from the stainless steel industry, the company's metals research team said in a report.

The stainless steel industry uses 50 per cent of world nickel production.

"Our analysis suggests that the market is likely to move into severe shortage during the first quarter of 1989," the report said. For the entire year, the com-

pany forecasts that Western world use will outstrip by 7,000 metric tons projected total supply of 655,000 tons. It estimates the 1988 deficit at 55,000 tons.

Nickel was trading on Friday at about \$16,600 a ton on the London Metal Exchange, a 30 per cent increase since the start of December.

In March it reached a peak of \$23,900, the highest price ever paid for a metal on the exchange.

Nickel was in short supply then because of record demand from the stainless steel industry and a break in exports from the Dominican Republic.

Production is currently being disrupted in Indonesia, Brazil

and Australia, making "an already tight market even tighter," the report said.

Demand for the metal has rebounded strongly, after falling off during September and October, and should remain at record levels at least until the middle of 1989, it said.

Canada is the West's biggest producer, accounting for 36 per cent of total 1987 output of 533,500 tons, according to latest figures from World Bureau of Metal Statistics.

It is followed by Australia, New Caledonia, Indonesia, the Dominican Republic, South Africa, Colombia, Botswana, Brazil and Zimbabwe.

World Business Summary

US regulators announce sale of 13 more troubled banks

WASHINGTON, Jan 3, (AP): US regulators, working against a year-end tax deadline, have announced the sale of 13 more insolvent savings and loan associations in Texas and Illinois. The latest deals announced yesterday brought to 197 the number of insolvent associations which have been dealt with by US officials this year. That number of a post-depression record, far surpassing the 48 association closed in 1987. Officials predicted that they are sure to top the target of dealing with 200 failures this year before a midnight deadline tomorrow, when tax breaks for the buyers of ailing saving and loan associations will be cut in half. Many of the savings and loan associations failed because of losses from the depressed oil industry. The associations are similar to banks, but they are limited by law to the types of transactions they can perform. Most of their business is in home mortgages. The latest takeovers included the first purchase of Texas institutions by foreigners. A group of investors from Taiwan agreed to buy eight insolvent Texas associations. The latest deals followed two of the largest bailouts. The government announced on Wednesday it was pledging assistance totalling \$6.8 billion to the purchasers of a huge California institution and five of the most financially troubled Texas savings and loan associations. The agreements yesterday were announced after the three-member Federal Home Loan Bank Board spent the day huddled behind closed doors reviewing offers. In one of the deals, eight insolvent Texas associations were sold to Pacific USA Holdings Corp., a Texas subsidiary of a Taiwanese company, which agreed to invest \$37.5 million to buy the institutions. The branches will be operated under the name Pacific Southwest Savings Bank F.S.B., headquartered in Corpus Christi. The bank board agreed to provide \$566.2 million in government aid to help the buyers make the institutions healthy again. Bank board chairman M. Danny Wall hailed the sale to the Taiwanese investors, saying, "We welcome our first non-US owned investor... their interest in investing in the future of Texas is a further indication of the attractiveness of the state's (banking) industry as well as its business climate, which is what we've been saying all along."

The association purchased were Charter Savings and Loan of Corpus Christi, Keystone Savings and Loan of Lampasas, Bayview Federal Savings Association of Corpus Christi, First Federal Savings and Loan of Lubbock, Independence Savings and Loan of Gonzales, Yaokum Federal Savings and Loan of Yaokum, Union Savings Association of San Antonio, and Sequin Savings Association of Sequin.

Premadasa to reduce joblessness despite economy hit by violence

COLOMBO, Jan 3, (Reuters): Ranasinghe Premadasa, who takes office tomorrow as Sri Lankan President, says he will end poverty and reduce unemployment despite an economy battered by guerrilla war. "He is a man of action. He will keep his promises," said a Premadasa aide today. The 64-year-old incumbent prime minister, who will be sworn in at a ceremony in Kandy in the central highlands, promised to help the poor and unemployed during his campaign for the Dec 19 presidential poll. Political analysts said his offer of a monthly subsidy of 2,500 rupees (\$76) for two years for 1.4 million families swung the vote in his favour. Thousands of people are expected to take advantage of a government decision to halve bus and rail fares to Kandy for the inauguration. Premadasa takes over from Junius Jayewardene, 82, whose 11 years in power were plagued by political unrest and bloodshed. Separatist guerrillas are fighting to set up a separate state for the minority Tamil community in northern and eastern areas. Their fight continues despite a July 1987 peace pact aimed at ending the campaign. In the south and centre, the Marxist People's Liberation Front (JVP) is trying to overthrow the government with a campaign of killing and disruption of essential services. More than 10,000 people have died and billions of rupees worth of state property have been destroyed by violence over the past six years. Economic growth fell to 1.5 per cent last year from a healthy five per cent in 1980. This year it is expected to grow by three per cent. Political analysts expect Premadasa to put into action several new economic plans before parliamentary polls on Feb 15. "He would try to achieve much in this period to enable another victory for the ruling party," said one analyst. Officials said recent decisions proposed by Premadasa include the lifting of a state of emergency in force since 1983, the reopening of schools which have been closed for four months and the release of some political prisoners. They said Premadasa's first task after winning the election was to finalise his anti-poverty plan, which is due to be implemented from April.

Solar projects under way in Saudi Arabia and UAE

RIYADH, Jan 3, (OPECNA): Two member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council — Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — are going ahead with their solar energy schemes.

Saudi Arabia has awarded BP Solar International (BPSI) a licence to produce photovoltaic solar modules in the kingdom.

According to a source at the British embassy here, the licence to manufacture the modules, which convert sunlight into electricity, was awarded by the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Industry and Electricity.

The project is a joint venture between BPSI, which holds 49 per cent, and the privately-owned Saudi Al Gosaibi Company.

The source said that the kingdom was already using photovoltaic cells for a wide range of applications, including power in rural areas, remote telecommunications, tunnel and street lighting etc.

Largest

The new project, he said, would bring BP's technology in the solar field to Saudi Arabia as well as ensure the supply of sophisticated products to the kingdom.

"BP Solar Arabia," as the joint venture is called, will also be able to produce lighting systems, medical refrigerators and pumping systems for Saudi Arabia and other countries in the region.

BP entered the solar energy field in the early 1980s and is now one of the world's largest, according to the source.

BP, he noted, had won contracts in Iraq, Jordan, Sierra Leone and China. It was also operating factories in the United Kingdom, Spain, Australia and Thailand.

Egypt to hike oil export prices

CAIRO, Jan 3, (AP): Egypt decided on Thursday to increase oil export prices by 75 cents for all blends in the first half of January, a senior Oil Ministry official said.

Hammad Ayoub, foreign sales director, announced the raise to reporters after a meeting of the oil pricing committee.

The new prices will be \$13.50 a barrel for the top-grade Gulf of Suez blend, \$12.65 a barrel for Belayim, \$11.50 a barrel for Ras Badran and \$11.20 a barrel for Ras Ghareb.

January will be the second month in succession in which Egypt has posted sharp increases in its oil-export prices.

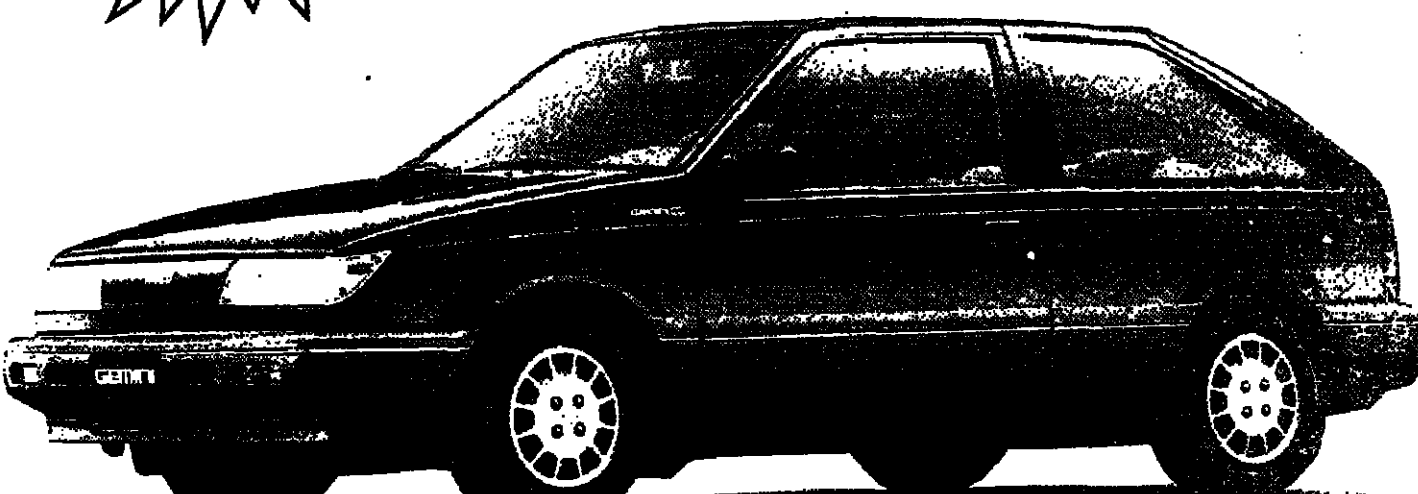
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GEN MOTORS	83/4	83/5	NEW ENG EL	24/1	24/0	SHERM MUTT	18/1	18/1
GEN SIGNAL	47/4	47/4	NEW PUL PA RE	16/1	15/7	SHELL TRAN	35/7	35/1
GENCORP	16/6	16/5	NEVELL CO	28/2	28/2	SHER PLOU	56/5	56/1
GENITECH	16/1	16/0	NEWMONT MI	33/2	33/2	SMITH INT	8/4	8/1
GENEQUIE PA	35/4	35/4	NEWMYT GLD	33/7	34/4	SNAITH BEC	47/6	47/1
GEQ PWT-80	74/4	73/1	NI NONG-10	58/7	58/7	SOURCE ON TL	34/7	35/1
GEORGIA-PAC	36/7	36/7	NI NONG-72	0	75/0	SNAP CORP	37/0	37/7
GIBR FI CL	1/2	1/2	NICOLET IN	8/7	8/7	SOUTHERN	22/2	22/1
GLO BAL CR	*10	*09	NIGOR INC	31/0	31/2	SPAIN FUND	10/4	10/1
GOLDEN HUS	17/6	17/6	NI INDS	19/0	18/7	SQUARY	7/5	7/1
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GRACE UR	25/7	26/0	NORTHBRO	27/6	27/6	SUN CO	32/0	32/1
GRANGER	53/7	53/7	NORTON	47/6	48/0	SUNSTRAND	50/2	50/1
GREYHOUND	29/7	30/0	NOVO IND	39/0	38/6	SURSH NIT	3/2	3/1
GRUNMAN	19/7	19/7	NUCOR CORP	47/0	47/6	SUPER VAL	24/4	24/1
GULF RES-C	12/7	12/7	OKC INDS	1,00	1,00	SOUTHWEST	20/0	20/1
GULF-WESTN	40/5	40/6	OKC PETROF	25/2	25/3	SV GAS	17/6	17/1
HALLIBURTN	28/1	28/0	OCEAN DRILL	15/1	15/1	SUN BELL	39/7	40/1
HALLIWOLD	15/1	15/1	OSDEN CORP	29/3	29/5	TANDY CORP	40/6	41/1
HANJIMA MIN	19/2	19/2	OS ED CO	19/0	18/7	TDK	75/4	75/1
HARRIS CP	26/6	27/0	OHIO NATT	17/5	17/6	TECO ENERS	23/5	23/1
HARTMARK	24/2	24/2	OLIN CORP	50/7	51/0	TEKTRONIX	20/2	20/1
HEINZ RI	46/6	46/6	ONICARE	8/1	8/1	TELEDYNE	333/2	332/1
HEL CURTIS	39/5	39/0	ORION PICT	14/0	14/1	TELEX CORP	0	19/1
HENRY-PAYNE	28/4	20/3	PATNE MED	16/1	16/1	TERADYNE	11/6	11/1
HERCULES	44/2	44/4	PAN AM	2/2	2/2	TESORO PET	11/7	11/1
HILLBRO	52/6	53/2	PANHANDLE	25/4	25/5	TEX AHE B	*10	
HILLMEYER	32/6	32/6	PARKER ELECT	17/3	17/3	TEXACO TR	28/0	28/1
HILLERBRND	30/3	30/3	PARKER INC	4/4	4/4	TEXACO	51/1	51/1
HILLWIND	35/3	35/5	PARKER WEL	28/0	28/1	TEXAS INST	33/6	33/1
HILTM HTLS	53/6	53/3	PATLACK PET	4/0	4/0	TEXAS INST	40/7	41/1
HITACHI	129/1	129/0	PULLMAN CO	0	0	TEKTRON	23/6	23/1
HONTSKE MIN	12/5	12/5	PC INDS-96	0	88/0	THOMPS MED	0	22/1
HONDY-HARNA	17/2	17/2	PEGASUS	11/6	11/4	TIDWATER	7/3	7/1
HOLIDAY C	26/7	26/7	PEMIN CENTR	24/1	24/2	TIGER INT	19/7	19/1
HOME DEPOT	31/4	31/5	PERNALT	102/6	103/1	TIMKEN	35/4	35/1
HOME FED S	24/6	24/7	PERZOILL	71/7	71/6	TORCHMARK	30/4	30/1
HONDA NAT	167/4	166/6	PEOPLES EN	19/4	19/2	TOSCO	3/2	3/1
HONEYWELL	59/4	59/6	PEPSICO	39/4	39/6	TOYS R US	36/7	37/1
HOUGHTN MI	34/1	34/3	PIFZER	57/6	57/7	TRANSAMER	33/6	33/1
HOUSTON IN	28/0	28/0	PHILIPS DOD	52/6	53/0	TRANSCO EN	35/1	35/1
HUGHES SUP	17/5	17/5	PHILIP HRP	101/5	101/7	TRANSCO EX	5/7	5/1
HUMANA INC	25/4	25/3	PHILLIS PERU	19/3	19/4	TRAVELLERS	35/0	34/1
HUN	121/7	121/6	PILLSBURY	65/7	65/7	TRINITY INT	33/7	34/1
ICI PHARMA	7/0	7/0	PIPMACLE W	15/6	15/7	TV CORP	26/2	26/1
ICI PHM CO	19/7	19/6	PITN-BOWES	42/4	42/6	TYCO LABS	35/4	35/1
ILLIN 4-08	0	20/0	PITTSOIN	17/3	17/4	UAL CORP	108/0	109
INDIA GROV	9/3	9/2	POLAROID	36/6	36/7	UTD BRAND	16/4	16/1
INGERSLL-R	34/0	34/2	PORTLAND GE	21/0	21/0	UTD TECH	41/1	41/1
INTERPILOT	30/0	30/0	PRIME CORP	177/4	177/4	UNILEVER	59/0	58/1
JEFF PILOT	0	81/4	PRIME INNS	32/0	32/0	UNION CAMP	34/6	34/1
JOHN CO B-5	34/7	36/3	PRIMERICA	21/5	21/4	UNION CARB	25/4	25/1
JOHNSON CR	65/0	65/0	PROCT-GAM	86/4	87/0	US SHOE	24/5	24/1
JOHNSON-HNS	35/0	34/1	RUGET SP-L	18/4	18/4	USK CP	29/3	29/1
JOHNSON-S	35/0	34/1	RUBATE NONG	130/3	131/1	US WEST	57/6	57/1
JAN CI P-L	31/0	31/0	QUAKER AUT	53/1	53/1	US-AIR CP	34/3	34/1
ELLOGG	64/0	64/2	QUAKER COR	17/0	16/7	VALERO EN	8/7	8/1
JERR HOGEE	37/6	37/7	QUANTUM CH	104/6	105/3	VALLEY IND	1/6	1/1
KEYSTONE	19/0	19/0	RALS-PULMIN	82/8/1	81/7	VARCO INTL	3/0	3/1
KEYS-CLARK	58/4	58/2	RANDA INDS	9/1	8/7	WARTON ASS	27/6	28/1

ROGER CP	8/5	8/5	RAYMARK	3/0	2/7	WAL MART	30/7	31
EA RONAL	16/5	16/4	RAYTHEON	67/1	67/0	WALGREEN	30/3	30

ENHAR	11/78	11/73	RJR NABISC	90/7	91/70	WARNER LAN	71/72	78
THAN LA	64/0		ROCHES G-E	17/2	17/2	WASTE MAN	41/2	41
LYTTON IN	71/7	71/7	ROCKMAN C	14/7	15/70	WASH BAS L	24/2	24
LOCKED B	33/0	33/0	ROCHELL	22/2	21/16	WYATT LTL	5/5	5
LOCCITE CP	41/2	32/6	ROHR IND	27/4	27/7	WEST CO	15/2	15
OWENS CORP	78/2	78/7	ROLLINS EN	10/7	10/7	WESTINGHSE	52/3	52
ON-NETTLE	0	0	ROLLINS IN	17/5	17/7	WICKES COM	7/2	7
ONE STAR	23/6	22/4	ROPER GRP	42/6	42/5	WILLIAMS C	30/4	30
OMES	20/7	21/0	ROMAN CORP	5/6	5/6	WILLIAMS-E	5/6	5
ORP HIGH	27/8	27/8	ROTT WUTEN	11/3	11/18	WINNBERG	9/2	9
OTV CORP	2/2	2/2	RSS BERRIE	19/3	19/3	WOLVER IAO	7/2	7
OTV INC	2/5							

IV 3-2	10/0	10/3	S DIEG G-E	38/3	38/2	WRIGLEY	36/1	36
LUBRIZOL	35/3	35/4	SALOMON	24/2	24/3	WYLE LABS	10/0	10

MALYSSA F	7/3	7/4	SC ATLANTA	13/0	13/1	ZAPATA	2/1	2
RIGHT ASS	1/1	08	SCOTT PPR	39/2	39/2	ZAYRE CORP	25/4	25
MARIETTA	4/0	40/4	SCOTTTYS	12/0	11/5	ZENITH EL	18/6	18
LA CO INC	8/5	8/4	SE BANK CO	22/4	22/4	ZERO	17/5	17
MANOR CARE	12/5	12/5						
MANOR HANOV	28/2	28/2						
MANVILLE	0	0						
MARRIOTT	31/7	31/5						
MATSU	25/4	25/3						
MATSU ELEC	0	207/4						
MATTEL INC	9/4	9/4						
MA CO INCORP	45/3	45/4						
MC DONALDS	47/2	48/0						
COMWELL	75/1	75/2						
MCGRAW-HIL	62/2	62/0						
MEAD	39/1	39/0						
HERCK - CO	57/2	57/4						
MEREDITH	30/1	30/3						
MERRILL LY	24/0	24/0						
MESA OFFSH	1/4	1/5						
MOBIL OIL	45/4	45/4						
MONSANTO	81/6	81/6						
MONTANA PD	35/5	35/6						
MONTANA PD	34/6	34/6						

Dow Jones Plus Indices

	LAST	CHANGE	HIGH	LOW
IND	2,151.61	- 16.96	2,161.43	2,149.89
TRANS	962.39	- 7.45	1,043.94	962.22
UTILS	185.16	- 1.12	186.64	185.10
STOCKS	819.70	6.24	844.05	819.63
NYSE COM	155.31	.95		
S-P COMPOSITE	275.92	- 1.80		
NYSE INDUS	186.26	- 1.16		
AMEX INDEX	305.59	- 0.42		
NASD COMP	378.47	- 2.91		
NASD BANKING	435.15	- 0.16		
NASD FIN'L	458.21	- 1.13		
NASD INDUS	374.96	- 3.99		
S-P 100 INDEX	261.84	- 2.02		

Wall Street Statistics "Composite"

MYSE HIGHEST VOLUME				AMEX HIGHEST VOLUME			
SAVIN BUS				DIGICOM	5/64	+	1/64
EDCON	43	7/16	-	ANDRAH CP	20	-	1/4
NABSCO RJR	90	1/4	-	TELE DATA	27	1/8	-
COMW ED	32	1/2	-	FRUIT LOOM	6	1/2	+
NOVA CORP	9	3/4	-	PHIL TEL	10	3/8	-
REBROOK LTD	12	1/4	UNCH	TELEPHONE	1	5/8	UNCH
IBM	121	3/4	-	TEXAS AIR	12	+	1/8
GEN ELEC	44	3/8	-	HASBRO INC	12	1/2	-
ATT	28	5/8	-	THERMEDICS	11	3/4	-
PHILLIPS P	19	3/8	-	LORITAN TE	12	3/4	-

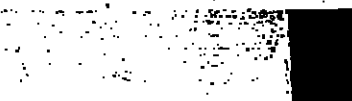
P SVC N.H	5 5/8	+	7/8	STEPHAN CO	2 3/4	+	9/16
TITAN CORP	2 5/8	+	3/8	GOLD CO AM	4	+	3/8

BURL MOR	22 3/4	-56 1/4	BIOTHERAP	3 5/8	-	1/2
INTEGRA	2	-2 7/8	ENTERTAINM	2	-	1/8
NYSE VOLUME	50,877,400		AMEX VOLUME		2,751,700	
STOCKS UP	395		STOCKS UP		226	
STOCKS DOWN	757		STOCKS DOWN		190	
30-DEC NASDAQ VOLUME	136,938,400					
STOCKS UP 150	DOWN	698				

NEW YORK, Jan. 3, (Reuters) — Wall Street stocks remained lower with blue chips weighing on the general market, analysts said. Futures traders said programme

analyst Michael Metz said a drop in bond prices was the major problem. The Dow was off 14 at 2154 and declining issues led gainers by seven-to-five. However, trading was slow as investors awaited the jobs report Friday, brokers said. They added that stocks and bonds were depressed by the purchasing managers report of a strong economy in December, which brokers said added to concern about rising interest rates.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY REUTERS FINANCIAL SERVICES.



International Bond Highlights

FRANKFURT: Royal Insurance PLC is issuing a 250 MLN mark five-year Eurobond for a financing unit with a 5-5/8 pct coupon priced at 101, lead manager Commerzbank AG said. (XLCDC 1552)

FRANKFURT: Societe Generale Bank Nederland NV, a unit of Societe Generale, is issuing a 200 MLN mark five-year Eurobond with a 5-5/8 pct coupon priced at 101.375. Societe Generale Bank Und Co said as lead manager. (XKYP 0620)

LONDON: Deutsche Bank Finance NV is issuing a 75 MLN Sfr five-year Eurobond paying 11 pct and priced at 101-1/4 pct, lead manager Baring Brothers and Co Ltd said. (XLA 1152)

PARIS: France's Compagnie Generale d'Electricite said it was issuing a 3.17 billion franc convertible bond carrying a six pct coupon and maturing in equal tranches on Jan. 1 each year from 1995 to 1998. (XKZL 0844)

ZURICH: Swiss Bank Corp said it is issuing for its own account a 200 mln Swiss franc, 3-1/4 pct subordinated bond with warrants priced at par. (XLA 1139) foreigners may not use the warrants to gain access to SBC's share registry. (XLBG 1311)

ZURICH: Oesterreichische Kontrollbank is issuing two 100 MLN Swiss franc tranches of straight bonds, lead manager Swiss Bank Corp said. (XKZS 1029)

LONDON: Swedish export credit is issuing a three year 75 mln Australian dollar Eurobond paying 14-1/2 pct and priced at 101-3/4 pct, lead manager Westpac Banking Corp said. (XKYO 0818)

LONDON: National Australia Bank is issuing a 100 mln Australian dollar five-year Eurobond paying 14-3/4 pct and priced at 101-7/8 pct, lead manager Hambros Bank Ltd said. (XKZK 0848)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 13 12-3/4	13 12-7/8	13-1/4 3/16
FFI 5.40/50	5.35/45	5.40/50
PAR 8-7/16 9/16	8-1/2 5/8	8-1/2 5/8
ZUR 4-3/8 4-5/8	4-1/2 4-3/4	4-5/8 4-7/8
BRE 5.05	7-7/8 7/16	7-7/8 7/16
AMS 11-1/4 11-3/4	11-1/8 11-5/8	11-1/2 12
AMS 4.25/75	5.60/75	5.60/75
TOK 4.2500 3125	4.9375 5.0000	4.6250 6875
EDU 7.69 7.93	7.87 8.00	8.06 8.18

Interest Rates

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	7-3/4	8-1/4
3 months	7-15/16	8-7/16
6 months	8	8-1/2
1 year	8-1/8	8-5/8

BOMBAY

PR.CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	79	80	80 NICO	610	94	95
ICC	351	351	GNFC	55.50	55.25	57 MUKAND	94	94	95
ASA BAIAT	212.50	212.50	GRASIM	78.50	82.80	80.25 NOCIL	805	805	795
ASA AUTO	415.75	416.25	55/50	148.75	148.75	146.25 ORKAY	30	29	27.50
AR. RAYON	350	345	410 HIND LEVER	74	74	73.75 PEICO	27	27	26.50
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	158	157	157.50 PFIZER	70	67	68
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	107	107	107.50 PRE-AUTO	49.50	50	48.25
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	27.75	28.50	29 RAYMOND	69	68	69
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	46.50	44	45 RELIANCE	153.50	153	147
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	82	82	82 SIEMENS	94	95	93
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	243.75	242.50	245 SPIC	57	57.50	56.25
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	48	47	48 STOWILLS	272.50	265	270
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	83	83.50	83.50 TATA PAR	390	380	390
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	126.50	128.75	126 TATACHEM	108	109	109
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	92	92	91 TELCO	721.25	715	706.25
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	18.25	18	18.37 TISCO	1067	1087.5	1092.5
AR. RAYON	124	123	120 HINDCO	67.50	65	66.25 VOLTA	470	470	490

Defors calls for firm line in EEC-US trade row

PARIS, Jan 3. (Reuters): The European Economic Community (EEC) must adopt a firm line in its commercial disputes with the United States, Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, said today.

"I am a great friend of the Americans but in these second order issues, such as these commercial ones, each side must be firm," he said, referring to an EEC-US row over food exports.

"The best way for a couple to maintain each other's respect is to be firm," Delors told Reuters.

Delors, who is French, said Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

The EEC is considering whether to take retaliatory action after Washington responded to a community ban from last Sunday on US hormone-treated meat exports by clamping 100 per cent tariffs on a range of EEC goods.

Delors did not comment on how the conflict might unfold, saying the 12 would decide jointly on action.

The community banned imports of hormone-treated meat on Sunday, and Washington responded with 100 per cent tariffs on a range of EEC goods in protest. The value of goods affected so far is about \$100 million on each side.

The products of counter-retaliation have been established. Only the date and the list of products remains to be settled," the spokesman said.

European ambassadors will meet on Thursday to consider recommendations the EEC Executive Commission is drawing up, he added. These would be offered to the US measures now that their extent is known, he said.

But officials and diplomats expect community ministers to be involved in endorsing the precise form the action will take.

Ministers have already approved a provisional list of US goods from which the final selection will be made. This features honey, nuts in their shells, dried fruit and tinned sweet corn.

The US sanctions have hit tinned tomatoes and sauce, fruit-based drinks, instant coffee, fruit juices, pet food, bonded beef and high quality preserved pork.

OAPEC chief optimistic about market stability in '89

KUWAIT, Jan 3. (OPECNA): Abdul Aziz Al Wattari, secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), has expressed optimism that oil market stability would be achieved this year following the OPEC price and production accord which came into effect on Jan 1.

He said he expected oil prices to reach the OPEC target of \$18 per barrel, given the pledge by OPEC member countries to abide by the Vienna accord.

On the issue of pricing oil in currencies other than the dollar, Al Wattari was of the view that the OPEC long-term strategy committee was best qualified to tackle this at an appropriate time.

He predicted that Arab energy demand would rise by four per cent, while global demand "may not exceed one to one and a half per cent."

The OAPEC secretariat, he said, was doing its best to achieve integration between various companies set up or sponsored by the organisation.

Al Wattari has stated on earlier occasions that to eliminate duplication and ensure economic and operational efficiency, the number of companies engaged in identical activities in OAPEC member states should be reduced.

Food industry to get a boost

MOSCOW, Jan 3. (AP): About 250 Soviet weapons factories will be converted to make food processing machinery in an effort to improve the food industry, Tass said yesterday.

A special programme has been drawn up for the coming eight years that provides for the creation and mastering of the batch production of highly efficient equipment for processing industries," Tass said.

The announcement, made in an interview with Deputy Premier Igor Belousov, is part of President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's plan of diverting some military resources to improve conditions for Soviet consumers.

"Some 250 arms-manufacturing plants have been drawn into this work," Tass quoted Belousov as saying, adding that Soviet defence policies should lead to the reduction of arms manufacturing, while still being sufficient to defend the Soviet Union and its allies.

Research and design of processing equipment will increase seven-fold, Tass said.

Gorbachev has said the Soviet Union needs to devote more of its resources toward solving internal problems, such as increasing food reaching consumers.

The new machinery is meant to reduce the huge amount of food that is lost annually during shipping and storage in the highly centralised Soviet economy, Tass, the official Soviet news agency said.

On Sunday, in another consumer-oriented move, the Kremlin announced sharp restrictions on the export of consumer goods ranging from caviar to children's shoes.

The food processing machinery is primarily intended for collective and state farms, as well as smaller lease-contract groups. Gorbachev is urging the creation of smaller groups of farmers, responsible for specific tasks or parcels of land. He wants to encourage farmers to work harder and earn more money.

AMMAN

OPNG	CLSG
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	0.62 0.65
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	0.50 0.50
ARAB BANK	2.67 2.65
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	3.60 3.50
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	3.70 3.70
ARAB INSURANCE	1.49 1.47
ARAB INT. INV. TRAD.	4.25 4.40
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.98 0.98
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	1.21 1.25
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	0.58 0.58
ARAB PAPER CO/IND	2.50 2.50
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	2.30 2.28
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	0.76 0.75
ARAB POTASH CO.	1.65 1.65
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	15.25 15.00
BANK OF JORDAN	1.00 0.95
BELGIUM INSURANCE	29.00 29.00
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	1.05 1.25
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05 1.25
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	4.75 4.70
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.	2.39 2.63
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	1.44 1.37
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	1.50 1.45
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	0.75 0.75
GENERAL INSURANCE	1.44 1.44
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.62 1.62
GENERAL MINING.	0.75 0.75
HIMEN MINERALS	1.44 1.44
HOLY LAND INS.	1.62 1.62
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.75 0.75
INDSTRL DEVLPT BAK	0.13 0.13
INDSTRL/COMM/AGR.	1.00 1.00
INDSTRL INVEST.	0.64 0.64
INTERBANK/INV.	0.79 0.80
IRBID ELECTRICITY	1.26 1.29
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	20.00 20.00
INTERMED/PETRI/CH	1.61 1.59
J. TOUR-SP COMPLEX	25.01 25.05
JERUSALEM INS.	0.79 0.80
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	1.26 1.29
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	25.01 25.05
JOR EAGLE INS.	1.26 1.29
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.26 1.29
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.26 1.29
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.26 1.29
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	1.26 1.29
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.26 1.29
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.26 1.29
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.62 0.65
JOR LIM BRICK	0.50 0.50
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	2.67 2.65
JOR NATIONAL BANK	3.60 3.50
JOR PAPER CARDBROG	3.70 3.70
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	1.49 1.47
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	4.25 4.40
JOR PRINTING/PUBLIS.	0.98 0.98
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	1.21 1.25
JOR SECURIT CORP	0.58 0.58
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.50 2.50
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	1.50 1.51
JOR WORSTED MLL	5.04 5.00
JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.94 0.94
JOR. PETROLIUM REF	5.45 5.45
JOR. FRENCH INS.	1.01 1.00
JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	0.94 0.94
JORDAN GULF REAL	1.01 1.00
JORDAN DAIRY	0.94 0.95
JORDAN GULF BANK	13.85 13.50
JORDAN GULF INS.	1.88 1.79
JORDAN ISLAMIC BAK	1.41 1.35
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	2.15 2.10
JORDAI TANNING	0.74 0.74
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.77 0.80
MACH/EQUI/RENT/MAIN	0.69 0.73
MAS INDUSTRIES	0.60 0.60
MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	60.00 60.00
MIDDLE EAST INS	0.74 0.75
MINERALS RESEARCH	2.07 2.17
NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	1.43 1.44
NAT/CABLE/WIRE/NF	0.46 0.45
NATIONAL AHLIA INS	0.25 0.28
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	2.31 2.29
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.35 0.35
NATIONAL STEEL	1.10 1.08
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.86 0.82
PETRA BAK	0.96 0.97
PETRA JOR. INS.	1.91 1.89
PHILADELPHIA INS.	1.25 1.20
RAFA INDUSTRIAL	0.86 0.82
REAL ESTATE INV.	0.96 0.97
SHIPPING LINES	1.91 1.89
SPINNING WEAVING	1.25 1.20
THE HOUSING BANK	0.86 0.86
UNITED INSURANCE	1.35 1.31
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	
UNIVERSAL INS.	
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	
YARMOUK INSURANCE	

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL				SECTOR	BC-A	73.50	74.00	74.00
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN		LC-A	.49	.50	.49
AC-A	13.50	13.75	13.50		LC-B	.49	.50	.50
ANS	2.85	2.90	2.95		PX-A	.38	.39	.39
GLO	32.00	33.00	32.00		PX-B	.39	.40	.40
PLDT	225.00	226.00	226.00		OIL SECTOR			
KPSI-A	2.38	2.40	2.38		BP-A	.015	.016	.016
KPSI-B	3.10	3.50			BP-B	.016	.017	.016
SNC-A	146.00	147.00	146.00		LRC-A	.0038	.004	.004
SNC-B		235.00			LRC-B	.038	.004	.004
MINING SECTOR					OPW-A	.031	.032	.033
APX-A	.022		.023		OPW-B	.032	.033	.033
APX-B	.023		.024		OV-A	.03	.031	.032
AT-A	34.00	34.50	34.50		OV-B	.031	.032	.033

Makati Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SECTOR	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
COMM-IND	683,100	6,131,555	932.66	14.55	DN
MINING	270,761,800	13,840,025	4,929.08	108.98	DN
OIL	725,950,000	14,346,490	5,527	0.283	DN
TOTAL	937,394,900	34,318,070	819.28	22.80	DN

PHILIPPINES MANILA

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR							
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	BC-A	68.00	73.00	73.00
SNC-A	146.00	147.00	146.00	BC-B	87.00	91.00	
SNC-B	233.00	234.00	233.00	LC-A	.48	.49	.50
SD-TIRE	35.00	35.50		LC-B	.49	.50	.51
PLDT	225.00	226.00	227.00	ZIP	.0085	.009	.009
ANSOR-A2.80	2.85	3.00		OIL SECTOR			
AC-A	13.50	14.00		STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN
GLO	32.50	33.00		BP-A	.015	.016	.016
FER-A	2.34	2.36	2.36	BP-B	.016	.017	.017
FER-B	2.42	2.46	2.42	LRC-A	.0038	.004	.0038
MINING SECTOR				LRC-B	.0038	.0042	.0042
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	OPM-A	.032	.033	.033
APX-A	.023	.024		OPM-B	.032	.033	.034
APX-B	.023	.024		OV-A	.03	.031	.032
AT-A	34.00	34.50	35.00	OV-B	.031	.032	.033
AT-B	35.00	36.50	36.00	TA	.021	.022	.022

Manila Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SECTOR	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
C/I	1,648,620	6,326,225	946.56	DN	4.57
MINING	277,216,350	20,427,340	4702.20	DN	63.19
OILS	1,374,950,000	26,945,200	5.860	DN	0.337
TOTAL	1,653,814,970	53,698,765	828.21	DN	19.22

SINGAPORE

NAME	LAST PR	CL	FUJITEC	656	L & M GRP	104	104
ADEF A			G KENT	65	M FEEDML	210	34
ADEF B			G LUMBER	92 92.5	M FLOUR	280	
AJINOMOTO		200	G TOWN	110	M GLASS	219	210
AMAL IND		92	G WILDS	102	M TIN PRT	59	52.5
AMAL PROP	22	22	GAMDA HDG	28.5	M UTD MFG	165	167
AMCOL	133	133	GEN CORP	56	M UTD MFG	59.5	59
BERJAYA	----	116	SEWING	540	M SHITA	595	595
BOUSTEAD		129	GOLD COCK	184	M WATA	59.5	59
CARLSBERG	540	535	CSI	123	MAGNUM	226	226
CCH		535	GUINNESS	332	336 MALEY IND	380	
CEREBO	540	535	GULA	----	28.5 MCB HDGS	75	74
CHEM IND	265	263	H L I IND.	168	165 METAL BOX	420	424
CK TANG	340	344	NARIAMU	100	100 MTB BHD	312	312
COLD STOR	388	390	HAW PAR	302	304 MULTIPLUPR	60	60
CS HULDS		40	HEXZA	62.5	63 MURATA	60	60
DKN		460	INNO-PAC	227	228 MURATASOO		
DNB BHD	107	104	INNOVEST	93	94 NATL IRON	466	462
DUTA CON	----	29	INSAS	28	29 NOL LTD	132	133
DUTCHBABY		440	INT WOOD	78	76 PILECON	73	
ELEC MAGN	163	165	J CEMENT	86	88 ROTH IND	209	208
ELEC ORD		348	JACKS LTD	100	100 ROTHMAN M	685	685
EU YAN S	242	240	JC INT	95	94		
F A C B		20	JC-HPH	88	89 S PACIFIC	334	
F E SHIP	223	223	JOHAN HDG	40	40 S PRESS	750	760
FEN A		680	K G HDGS	102	S PRESS F	750	760
FEN ORD	695	695	K KELLAS	220	220 S SHIP	346	348
FEB CABLE	----	67	KAMUNTING	87	89 SIWANG H	170	171
FED FLOUR		420	KE SANG	31.5	31.5 SAMANDA	119	120
FEMA BHD		420	KECK SENG	166	167 SATERAS	46	46
FIMA BHD	248	248	KEPPEL	275	274 SIA	1270	1260
			KG FLOUR	195	ST TRADG	312	316

Interest rate hike has positive effects

Banks receiving more deposits, says Sheikh Salem

(Continued from Page 1)

Similarly, interest rates on most of the Gulf currencies is higher than 10 per cent. Sheikh Salem stressed that these increases in the interest rates particularly on the US dollar and sterling pound, resulted in increasing the gap between local interest rates on the dinar, which remained around 5.5 per cent and international interest rates which rose to over 10 per cent.

Deposits
The governor of the Central Bank added that low interest rates on the dinar forced private sector to increase deposits in foreign currency. He said that the amount of private sector deposits in foreign currency increased from KD608 million by the end of March 1987 (before the implementation of reduced interest rates) to KD1,094 million in November 1988, an increase of KD486 million or 80 per cent.

He said that private sector deposits in Kuwaiti dinar in local banks dropped from KD3,753 million to KD2,906 million during the same period, registering a drop of KD847 million (or 22.6 per cent). Sheikh Salem added that this means the increase in foreign currency deposits and drop in dinar deposits was KD833 million, 46 per cent of which took place between June and November last year.

Protecting
Sheikh Salem added that the Central Bank tries to protect deposits in local currency but it was gradually dropping because of the gap between the interest rates on the Kuwaiti dinar and the foreign currencies, as the interest rates on the Kuwaiti dinar continued to be around 5.5 per cent.

He said that interest rates in Kuwait did not respond to changes in international interest rates because of the presence of the ceiling, thus necessitating an adoption of a new structure of

interest rates.

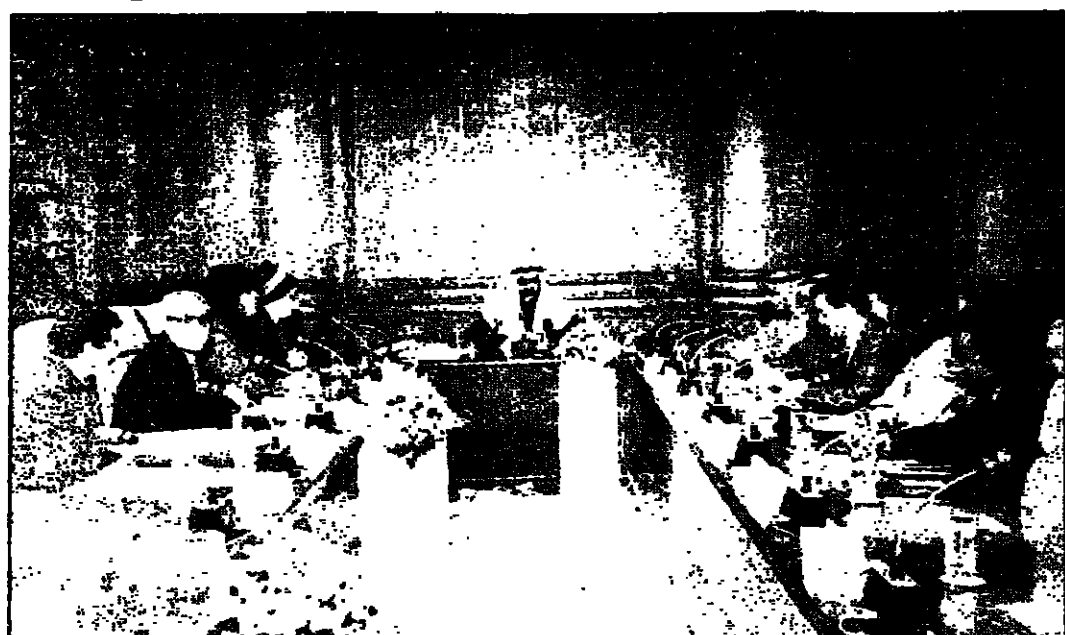
The official described the new structure of interest rates, issued by the Central Bank last month as enjoying "a great deal of flexibility" through linking interest rates on loans and deposits with the rate of discount within a certain range. By doing this, the Central Bank will be capable of closely following any developments in international interest rates and thus take appropriate amendments in the rate of discount hence resulting in automatic change in levels of interest rates.

He added that for the first time, the new structure of interest rates includes minimum for interest rates on private sector deposits with respect to time, thus ensuring that these rates will not decrease below certain levels and in a way that no gap is created between local and foreign interest rates.

Approving
Sheikh Salem affirmed that before approving and issuing the decision concerning a new structure of interest rates, the Central Bank thoroughly studied all its aspects and carried out practical tests to assure that the new structure is for the benefit of the local economy.

He said that the Central Bank has studied the expected effect of the increase in interest rates on shares and real estate markets. Although activity in both markets opposed to the upward movement of interest rates, Sheikh Salem said that there are no fixed and constant factors to measure this relation, in addition to the fact that psychological effects play an important role in buying and selling operations.

Ceiling
He denied that interest rates were increased by 3 per cent according to the new structure. He said that the interest rate structure has been effective from Dec 11, 1988. The interest rate ceiling for KD lending up to one



Sheikh Salem addresses the press conference

year is 9.5 per cent per year i.e. an increase of 2 per cent over the previous 7.5 per cent ceiling with respect to non-productive lending extended up to one year.

He said that regarding KD lending over one year, the present ceiling of 10 per cent is not far from interest rate levels which were prevailing according to the previous structure, as such rates were finalised on the basis of 1 per cent maximum over the KIBOR.

Restricts
The governor also defended the "sudden" increase in interest rates by adding that bank officials studied the options including the gradual increase of interest rates and found that this was not the best option because the gradual increase will not give the market the stability required.

Sheikh Salem said that the increase in interest rates usually restricts the rate of inflation and not the opposite.

He said that there is no unemployment problem in Kuwait that may be aggravated because of the special nature of Kuwait's labour market. He added that it has been established that Kuwaiti economy heavily depends on outside sources, the inflation problem is an imported one and thus it has always been very difficult to control locally.

He conceded that the hike in interest rates will increase the burden on the state in financing public expenditure and borrowing. He added that the Central Bank is well aware of the fact that high interest rates mean an increase in government financing, but by keeping interest rates low and isolated from international markets, another cost was involved. He ruled out any possibility that the new rate structure will accumulate huge dinar liquidity with local banks because there has always been a good demand on the dinar from the market. He added that flex-

ibility of the new structure rate would re-establish the balance between surplus in liquidity with local banks and demand.

Reasons

Although the governor of the Central Bank admitted that there are many reasons for "leakage of Kuwait funds abroad" and conversion from the Kuwaiti dinar to other currencies in the local market, he stressed that the gap in interest rates between local and international market was a major reason. He said that many investors send their money abroad because of the difference in interest rates. Sheikh Salem added that the new structure did not include increases on the interest rates on consuming loans (personal loans) for its important role in boosting the commercial market in the country. He denied that the present structure is temporary, as it has been put to deal with the new changes and developments.

Only two days of activities

Deficit threatens harmony as US Congress reconvenes

WASHINGTON, Jan 3. (Agencies): Democratic leaders were promising co-operation with the incoming Bush administration as Congress reconvened today, but the mood of harmony may founder on disagreements on dealing with the budget deficit.

President-elect Bush has flatly rejected any new taxes but many Democrats, and some Republicans, believe that President Bush will be unable to reduce the deficit by \$35 billion as required by law without imposing new taxes or making unacceptable cuts in social programmes.

Confrontation
For now, however, they are holding their fire, avoiding confrontation and waiting to hear what Bush proposes after he is sworn in as president on Jan 20.

After that, Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine said, "We intend to offer constructive alternatives."

But policy disputes were set aside today as members of the 101st two-year Congress were being sworn in. Eleven new Senators were taking their seats in the Senate and 33 new members were being sworn in the House.

The Democrats strengthened their majorities in both chambers in November's elections and Bush will not have the overwhelming advantage that President Reagan enjoyed when he faced demoralised Democrats following his 1980 election landslide.

In the Senate the party breakdown is 55-45. In the House the ratio is 259-174 with two seats vacant.

Only two days of activities

were scheduled for Congress this week, after which members will recess until Jan 20. Following today's swearing in and other organisational business, Congress returns tomorrow for a joint session at which the electoral votes for the president and vice-president will be counted.

Required
This is required because voters in presidential elections actually vote for an electoral college rather than directly for the president and vice-president.

The Reagan federal budget for the 1990 fiscal year goes to Congress on Jan 9 and is expected to be amended by Bush when he takes office.

That process is likely to strain the traditional honeymoon between a new president and Congress as Bush seeks to make budget savings required under the Gramm-Rudman Act without raising taxes.

Under this law the government must come up with about \$35 billion in savings or face automatic budget cuts that would fall heavily on defence.

Potential budget cuts are likely to add to the embarrassment of Congress as it prepares to acquiesce in a major pay rise for its members.

Recommended
A special commission recommended raises of about 50 per cent to \$135,000 a year. Bush can accept or modify the raise, which would go through automatically if Congress does not vote it down.

Republican representative Tom Tauke of Iowa and about 40 co-sponsors introduced legisla-

tion today to stop the pay rise. They said Democratic leaders intended to make sure the increase took effect.

Meanwhile, the government said today that an increase in single-family home building and government projects pushed US construction spending up by 0.8 per cent in November, the third consecutive monthly gain.

Building activity rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$411.1 billion in November, following a 0.2 per cent rise in October and a 0.9 per cent jump in September.

Even with the gains, construction activity as a whole was up only a lackluster one per cent for the first 11 months of 1988, compared with the same period of 1987. The figures are not adjusted for inflation.

Activity

Rising interest rates have dampened activity in most sectors. Fixed-rate home mortgages averaged 10.77 per cent during the last week of 1988, the highest in 13 1/2 months.

Apartment and office building construction in particular have been sluggish, held back by high vacancy rates in many parts of the country, especially the Southwest.

In November, residential construction rose 0.7 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$200.4 billion, reflecting a 2.3 per cent gain in single-family home building. Apartment construction dropped 1.9 per cent.

Non-residential construction dropped 0.8 per cent in November, falling to an annual rate of \$92.3 billion.

UK launches new high interest bond

LONDON, Jan 3. (Reuters): The British government sought to encourage personal savings today by launching a new high-interest bond guaranteed to earn 12 per cent a year over five years.

Britons, like Americans, have been saving less and spending feverishly in recent years. The government wants people to save more as part of efforts to brake a consumer spending boom which has pushed up inflation and, by drawing in imported goods, has sent Britain's trade deep in the red.

Scheme
National savings, a popular government savings scheme, said interest on its new 'capital bond' is accumulated and paid out at redemption, so the value including interest of a 100 pound sterling bond held for a full five years would be £176.24.

Peter Lilley, Treasury Economic Secretary and minister responsible for national savings, said: "The capital bond is a clear affirmation of the government's commitment to encouraging personal saving."

REQUIRED OFFICE BOY
With transferable residence.
Ali Abdul Aziz
Al-Abdulhameed
Al-Sane Est.
P.O. Box 22744 - Safat - 13088
Kuwait. Tel: 4817379 / 4817389. Shunwah, behind Arab Times newspaper, opp. Burgon Bank.

Gold eases

Dollar ends lower and share prices mixed

LONDON, Jan 3. (Reuters): The dollar ended lower in Europe today when full-scale trading resumed after the New Year holiday break but dealers were split over the outlook for the US currency.

Wall Street stocks started the year lower with blue chips off sharply and the Dow Jones Industrial average off 20.36 points at 2,148.21 at New York's midday but trading was slow.

High domestic interest rates supported the dollar, but dealers said investors remained worried about US President-elect George Bush's ability to tackle the huge US trade and budget deficits.

Slowdown
US December employment data due out on Friday, expected to show a slowdown in employment growth, will be the next big market factor, dealers said. Economists see growth in non-farm payrolls slipping to 260,000 people from 463,000 in November.

Faster-than-expected jobs growth could be evidence of faster US growth and rising inflation, which would probably

prompt higher US interest rates, dealers said.

The dollar ended in London at 1.7635 West German marks and 123.55 Japanese yen compared with closes on the last trading day of 1988 on Friday of 1.7755 and 125.10.

The pound sterling was \$1.8235 against a close on Friday of 1.8070 due to hopes for higher interest rates.

Prices

On the precious metals market, gold bullion prices were pulled down by falls in New York, and the metal was fixed at \$411.60 an ounce this afternoon in London, \$2 below the morning setting. It closed at \$412.25 in London.

The benchmark US treasury 30-year bond was lower, trading in London at 99-1/16 points.

In oil markets, the price of Brent oil from the North Sea for February delivery was stable at about \$15.75 a barrel.

Foreign demand boosted West German shares to their highest opening level since 1987, dealers said.

By late morning the 30-share Dax index stood at 1,362.20, some 27.17 points above the previous close and 18.38 points above the 1988 high of 1,343.82. French share prices started steady to slightly higher.

Best

Tokyo's financial markets have been closed since December 28 for a break over the New Year's holiday season. They are due to reopen for limited trading tomorrow.

Hong Kong stocks ended the first trading day of 1989 with the Hang Seng index breaking through the key chart point of 2,700 in the bourse's best finish for five months.

"Interest is in predictable sectors such as properties and utilities, but the market should now go from strength to strength for the rest of the month," one analyst said.

The Hang Seng index ended 19.25 points higher at 2,706.69. Australian shares fell in dull business. By close of floor trading the All-Ordinaries index was down 6.5 points at 1,480.5.

In London shares eased, but were well above today's early lows in sluggish post-holiday business. Dealers said a steep opening fall on Wall Street today was widely anticipated and had little impact in afternoon trading.

Prices opened lower here after Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson warned of possible recession if businesses fail to control their costs, including labour costs.

Down

By 1600 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was down six points to 1,787.1 after a day's low of 1,782.4 at 0906 GMT. Leading share volume at 1600 GMT was a seasonally modest 220.1 million.

Mining conglomerate Consolidated Goldfields stood out with an initial 61p fall to 1.228 but later recovered to 1.251. The stock fell after weekend newspaper reports the UK Monopolies probe into the Minoro bid is wider than first indicated.

Some sources believe clearance is now less likely, and that Minoro might not renew the bid, which lapsed on referral

to the Monopolies Commission. Minoro shares were unchanged here today at 1.150 US cents.

Shares in Plessey were up 5p to 225 after GEC said its joint £1.7 billion bid with Siemens for Plessey will not be investigated on national security grounds in the US.

Interest

Food group Unigate was up 4p to 354 on speculative interest after recent stake building. Irish meat trader Goodman International has recently raised its stake to just under eight per cent, but dealers think a bid from Goodman alone is unlikely.

Property group Hammerson held onto a 6p gain at 893 after Rodamco's bid for the company was cleared by the UK authorities. The upward move reflected a belief the bid will have to be raised from the current £1.3 billion to succeed.

Courtaulds at 264p and Coats Vynella at 147p were both a penny firmer as investors took a second look at the textile sector after recent sharp falls, dealers said.

SINGAPORE: Prices closed generally lower after thin and lacklustre trading. The Straits Times industrial index fell 4.39 to 1,034.23.

BOMBAY: Exchange closed to let brokers attend the inauguration of a training institute and the launching of a national equity index by Finance Minister Shankar Rao Chavan. Trading resumes tomorrow.

FRANKFURT: Strong demand by foreign and domestic institutional investors pushed shares to their highest levels since 1987 amid active trading. The DAX index rose 24.32 to 1,359.33.

ZURICH: The market ended with broad gains in lively trading. Attention centred on blue chips and registered shares of well known Swiss firms. The Swiss index rose 12.1 to 954.6.

IN announcing the suspension of payments on pre-1984 debt owed to private banks, Lusinch said on Saturday private foreign creditors "selfishly misunderstood" the burden of the debt placed on development.

Opposition politicians said the heavy debt payments were behind the sharp fall in the value of the national currency, the bolivar, against the dollar, sparking an unprecedented annual inflation rate of between 30 and 40 per cent since 1987.

While trying to attract NRIs, the banks try to provide service of international standards. Indian banks are mainly concentrating in Hong Kong, New York and Dubai. Many NRIs working in Hong Kong plan to shift to other places and invest in other countries in view of the impending reversion of Hong Kong to mainland China.

The foreign banks are also making efforts to lure Non-Resident Indians to deposit their money. Recently the Indian government announced many concessions in tax to NRIs for depositing their money.

The effort is to tap the NRIs money both abroad and at home. Canara Bank has set up centres in Goa, Mangalore and Cochin where a large number of people are working abroad. Some banks have established desks in Hong Kong, Singapore and New York. Plans are also to set up such centres in Dubai.

The kind of service offered by these centres is to inform NRIs about changes in Indian rules and regulations, the economic potential of various regions and industrial sectors and advise them on operating their investment portfolios.

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Money-changer shut for alleged violation

AMMAN, Jan 3. (Reuters): Jordan has ordered its oldest exchange house to close for six months from today for alleged violation of Central Bank regulations.

Chazi Saudi, vice-president of Saudi Exchange Company, told Reuters the Higher Economic Security Committee, a body chaired by the prime minister, had told the firm to suspend operations.

He said the company, operating since 1948, had no right to appeal in court against the decision, taken under martial law regulations in force since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Saudi said the committee imposed the ban ostensibly because a currency shipment by his company through Amman airport broke Central Bank regulations on currency movements.

But he said the real reason was to punish leading members of the firm for criticising the government's economic policies.

"It's a dangerous precedent," he said. "It could damage Jordan's credibility and Jordan could lose its position as a base for distributing currencies to the Arab world."

Government and Central Bank officials could not be contacted immediately for comment, but a security source said the firm had received three previous warnings over shipments of dinars from Jordan to Kuwait.

Interest and principal payments last year totalled about \$5.3b

Venezuela debt suspension declared for 3 months

CARACAS, Jan 3. (Reuters): The Venezuelan government has formally notified foreign private banks it will postpone principal payments on its debt falling due in a three-month period beginning on Jan 17, a senior Finance Ministry official told reporters yesterday.

Venezuela's political opposition meanwhile said President Jaime Lusinch's weekend decision to suspend debt principal payments was the right move but it should have been taken earlier to curb inflation and shortages of food.

A telex notification was sent on Friday to the Chase Manhattan Bank, which chairs the country's 12-bank advisory committee, the official told reporters.

Accord
The advisory panel oversees the repayment of \$20.3 billion owed to about 450 private foreign banks under a rescheduling accord signed in September 1987.

Venezuela's total foreign debt is about \$31 billion said the official, who briefed reporters on condition he was not identified.

The official said it would be up to the incoming government of President-elect Carlos Andres Perez to decide whether it will renew the suspension of principal payments which expires on April 17. Perez takes office on Feb 2.

One foreign banker said the telex sent by the Finance Ministry to the banks said Venezuela would not pay the penalties stipulated in the accord for post-

poned principal payments.

Total principal payments maturing for payment this year are \$2.5 billion due to all creditors, the official said. These include bondholders, governments, multilateral agencies and suppliers.

"Two and some odd billion dollars is very heavy," the official said.

Interest and principal payments last year totalled about \$5.3 billion, while total exports were about \$10.5 billion.

Perez's position on the debt is more hard-line than the outgoing government. He told Reuters last August he intends to more than halve total debt and interest payments to about \$2 billion, unless the price of oil climbs.

"The measure is correct, but it is tardy," Pompeo Marquez, head of the Movement to Socialism (MAS), the third biggest party, said in a statement printed yesterday.

"He should have made the decision a long time ago when the price of oil fell," he added.

Burden
The price of oil, Venezuela's main export, declined 48.5 per cent during Lusinch's five-year term, adding to the burden of servicing the country's \$30.3 billion foreign debt, the fourth biggest in Latin America.

Conservative opponents of Lusinch's centre-left government also said the president's move to suspend principal payments was belated.

"He should have done this a long time ago," Paciano Padron,

a leader of the centre-right Christian Democratic Copei Party told reporters. "He has repaid billions of dollars without getting enough fresh loans in exchange to reactivate the economy."

Venezuela had earned a reputation as a model debtor by repaying \$9.5 billion since 1984 to private foreign creditors, more so than any other Latin American debtor.

But it only received an estimated \$1.33 billion in loans in exchange, a fraction of which

was paid.

India sets up bank branches to attract NRI savings

NEW DELHI, Jan 3. (KUNA): Indian and foreign banks are luring Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to deposit their money in their savings.

The Indian government has exclusively set up two bank branches for the NRIs, one is the State Bank of India and the other is Citibank. Two others have set up cells.

Service
The effort is to tap the NRIs money both abroad and at home. Canara Bank has set up centres in Goa, Mangalore and Cochin where a large number of people are working abroad.

Some banks have established desks in Hong Kong, Singapore and New York. Plans are also to set up such centres in Dubai.

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WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Jan 3. (Reuters): Stocks ended their first day of trading in 1989 on a lacklustre note, with declines in almost all sections. The All Ordinaries index fell 6.5 to 1,480.8.

TOKYO: Market closed. The Nikkei index closed at a record 30,159.00 on Dec 28.

HONG KONG: Stocks ended the first trading day of 1989 with the Hang Seng index breaking through the key chart point of 2,700. It closed up 19.25 at 2,706.69.

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MITSUBISHI Colt, 1985 model, white, 52,000 kms, manual with 4 doors, sunroof and A/C. In very good condition. KD875. Tele. Mr. McLeod, 5323086, after 1 pm. (AT4-45486-2)

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ROVER 3500 SE, 1983 model, fully automatic, beige colour, with four doors, hatchback, sunroof and A/C. In showroom condition. KD1,200. Tele. 4884485. (AT3-45465-3)

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Male or female secretary, part-time — afternoon. Must have experience in typing and correspondence in English with spoken Arabic. Please call 3925955, 4-9 pm

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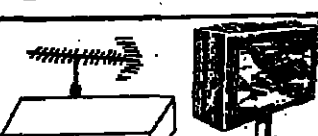
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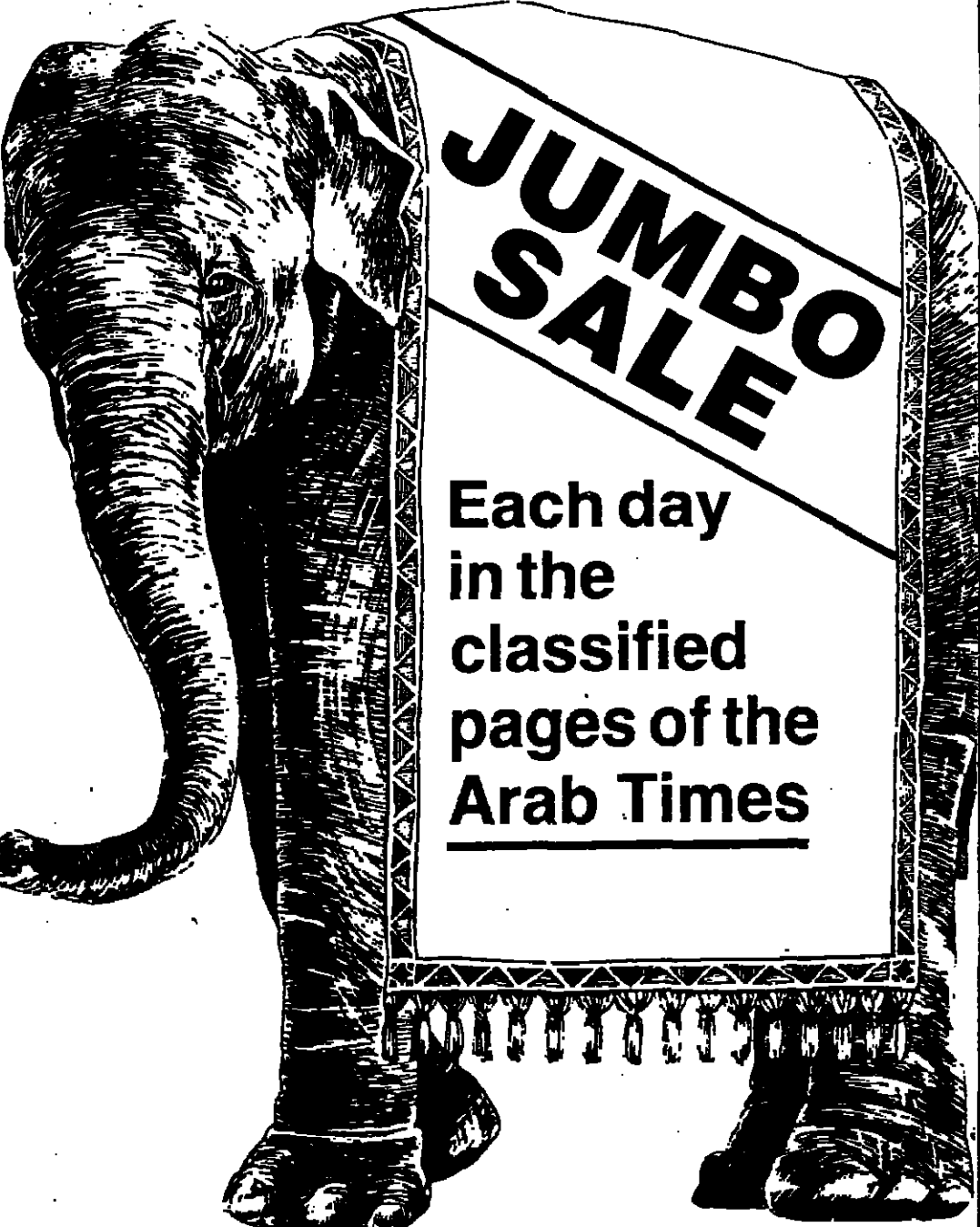


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Each day in the classified pages of the Arab Times

ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Shield cricket

SYDNEY, Jan 3. (Reuters): Western Australia completed a comfortable six-wicket win over Queensland in Brisbane today to move into second place in the Sheffield Shield cricket championship and strengthen their chances of retaining the title.

PGA tourney

DUBAI, Jan 3. (Reuters): The Gulf Emirate of Dubai will host a golf tournament in March as part of the Professional Golf Association (PGA) European Tour, organisers said today.

Zivojinovic out

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 3. (Reuters): Finland's Veli Paloheimo, a tournament professional for only six months, crushed third-seeded Slobodan Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia 6-1 in the first round of the South Australian Open tennis tournament today.

Suns triumph

LANDOVER, Maryland, Jan 3. (AP): Tom Chambers scored 12 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter, rallying the Phoenix Suns to a 125-122 victory over the Washington Bullets last night.

Drivers killed

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Jan 3. (AP): Two Belgian racing drivers, who were to compete in the Swedish world series rally, were killed when their car collided with a train during a Monday practice session, police said. Police identified the two Belgians as Georg Fernand Jose Mignot, 40, and Bernard Charles de Lathuy, 28.

World record

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia, Jan 3. (AP): Twenty Czechs broke the world record for indoor soccer last month, playing the game continuously for 107 hours and 15 minutes, the official Czechoslovak news agency CTK said yesterday.

Auto racing

NEW YORK, Jan 3. (AP): Attendance at major auto racing events during 1988 increased by nearly 1 million spectators and surpassed the 10 million mark for the first time, according to statistics compiled by the Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Co.

Czech star

CALGARY, Jan 3. (AP): A 17-year-old Czechoslovakian hockey star who wants to play in the National Hockey League was in the custody of Canadian immigration officials when his teammates flew back home yesterday, tournament officials said. Peter Nedved had disappeared from his billet's residence early yesterday morning.

Yacht series

TOKYO, Jan 3. (AP): Soviet twins Tyniste and Toomas Tynou, the 1988 Olympic 470 class yachting silver medalists, beat a Japanese yacht today in the first of three races in the 1989 Toshiba International yacht match series.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Durrill Bridge Tournament (17th week) held at the Kuwait International Hotel on Monday evening:

- N/S
1. Sherin & Dr Mesdari
2. Merchant & Dastji
3. Dr Parikh & Aurora
E/W
1. Mrs Supre & Shah
2. Krishnamoorthy & Vasudevan
3. Durrill & Montano

HODDLE GETS FRENCH FOOTBALL AWARD

Rangers blast past Celtic

LONDON, Jan 3. (Reuters): Scottish Premier League leaders Glasgow Rangers recovered from conceding a goal in the first minute to beat neighbours Celtic 4-1 today.

Defender Chris Morris gave Celtic the ideal start when he drove home a 20-metre free kick after 45 seconds.

But the goal served only to galvanise Rangers into action and by half-time they had built a 3-1 lead with goals by Terry Butcher, Mark Walters, a penalty, and Ian Ferguson.

Walters sealed Celtic's fate with a second goal 10 minutes from the end.

The win took Rangers three points clear of second-placed Dundee United who drew 1-1 with Aberdeen. Charlie Nicholas cancelled out Hamish French's early goal for United.

Meanwhile, Monaco's and England midfielder Glenn Hoddle has been voted Best Foreign



Glenn Hoddle

Footballer of 1988 in France by the soccer magazine France Football, the first Briton to win the prize since it began 20 years ago.

France Football, the country's most respected sports magazine, said Hoddle won the award

ahead of West German Karl-Heinz Förster of Marseille and Yugoslav Mehmed Badzarevic of Sochaux.

Hoddle joined Monaco from English First Division Tottenham in 1987, and his domination of the midfield was a key element in the Mediterranean side's League championship victory last season. He has scored 10 goals this season.

Monaco have reached the last eight of this season's European Cup and are fourth in the French League, thanks largely to Hoddle and England striker Mark Hateley.

Hateley, interviewed in the latest edition of France Football, said he could not understand why Hoddle was unable to command a regular place in the English national squad.

"He's a great player. An incredible dominating influence, the strongest I've ever seen and capable of obtaining a victory on

his own and at the same time entertaining the public," Hateley said.

Hoddle's midfield skills and precision passing have roused French football fans of their one-time national hero and new national team coach Michel Platini.

Sochaux striker Stephan Paille was voted Best French Footballer of the Year.

Results	
Scottish Premier Division	
Rangers 4 Celtic 1	
St Mirren 1 Dundee 1	
Dundee United 1 Aberdeen 1	
Hamilton 0 Motherwell 2	
Scottish Division One	
Falkirk 3 Meadowbank 0	
Queen of S 3 Airdrie 4	
Ayr 4 Kilmarnock 1	
Clydebank 1 Morton 1	
Park 0 Clyde 0	
Raith 1 Dundee 3	
Scottish Division Two	
Albion 3 Stranraer 0	
Alloa 3 Arbroath 3	
Brechin 1 Montrose 1	
Cowdenbeath 1 East Fife 1	
E Strirling 0 Stenhousemuir 3	
Queen's Park 2 Dumbarton 1	

Baur surprises Krishnan

WELLINGTON, Jan 3. (Reuters): Top seed and defending champion Ramesh Krishnan of India was eliminated from the \$145,000 Wellington Grand Prix tennis tournament today while a little-known New Zealander beat third seed Michael Schapery of the Netherlands.

Krishnan was beaten by West Germany's Patrick Baur 6-4 1-6 6-3 while David Lewis, brother of 1983 Wimbledon finalist Chris Lewis, knocked out Schapery 6-3 6-4 in first round matches.

Lewis, 24, with a current world ranking of 225 compared to Schapery's 50th, was the star of the day as he repeated last year's feat of knocking out a leading

seed and tournament favourite. He was aggressive and positive from the outset, his serve was accurate and powerful and his ground strokes proved too much for Schapery.

Lewis said he was not overawed at having to meet a top seed in the first round — "pressure situations suit me" — but was pleasantly surprised at how crisply he hit the ball.

"I haven't been hitting that well in practice," Lewis said. "I felt in control of most of the match. I was moving well and concentrated on his forehand which was a little weaker."

Schapery said a mild bout of bronchitis contributed to his

downfall. "I was an easy target for anyone today," he said, adding he was considering withdrawing from next week's Auckland tournament.

Krishnan, the defending champion and ranked 40th in the world, was eliminated by 178th ranked Baur.

"I have never played him before and I didn't know how he played or what to expect," the West German said.

"I just played each point as it came. I don't like to play long rallies and after the first set I was very tired and gave the second away. In the third I just tried to hold serve and hold for the break."

Budd denies supporting apartheid

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 3. (Reuters): South African-born athlete Zola Budd, seeking to re-enter international sport, said today she does not support apartheid but objects to being used as a political pawn.

As a storm broke over her remarks in two recent television interviews, Budd issued a statement answering her critics.

"I do not support any political system that entrenches the superiority of one race over another," she said in a statement released through the South African Press Association.

Budd, 22, said remarks she made about black Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and anti-apartheid activist Sam Ramsamy in a British Broadcasting Corporation documentary had been misconstrued.

"My argument with the two gentlemen in question is not over apartheid... I do not believe they have any right to use me as a target in their bid to dismantle apartheid," she said.

The documentary has not yet been screened but details of the interview have been widely leaked. South African press reports today said Budd accused Tutu, Ramsamy and coloured (mixed-race) church leader Allan Boesak of attacking her to further their own careers.

Budd, who took out British citizenship in 1984, was hoping to run in the Seoul Olympics last year until anti-apartheid pressures forced her to fly home.

Sadeq hammers 71 as Sporting triumph twice

BROTHERS Sporting Club scored an eight-wicket victory over Asim Cricket Club in a Friday League match, organised by the Gulf Cricket League.

Sporting followed up this victory by beating CCK on better run-rate in an Indian Tea Board Trophy semifinal game at the new EPI ground on Sunday.

Asim won the toss in the first game and opted to bat. Khalid was out on the fourth ball of Asim's innings but Fahed and Tariq played some fine shots before Fahed was caught and bowled by Montu.

Former

Asim went on to score 151 for the loss of six wickets with Fahed the top scorer with 22. Kenny and Montu took two wickets each while Tutul and Qamruzzaman got one each.

Montu and Sadeq opened the innings for Sporting but the former was out with the score only nine. Asghar and Sadeq put on 130 runs for the second wicket before the latter was caught and bowled for 71.

Asghar remained unbeaten on 62 as Sporting went past the victory target without further loss. In the second match, Sporting had a tough game before reaching the final.

CCK, batting first, scored 155 in the 28 allotted overs. The main scorers were Zaheer Sr 37, Raees 43, Zaheer Jr 22 and Mansoor 24. Manoj and Kanu took two wickets each.



Sadeq: 71 runs

In reply, Sporting scored 135 in 25 overs to win the game on better run-rate as CCK had scored 133 runs at the same stage of their innings.

Sporting had started badly, losing Sadeq with the score only 12. Sporting lost three more wickets at regular intervals and at one point the match seemed to be in CCK's favour with the total score 110 for four in 21 overs.

But skipper Qamruzzaman and Robin went for the runs and Sporting just managed to get ahead of the run-rate before time was called by the umpires.

Montu Manoj scored 25 runs each. Saifuddin captured two wickets while Raees and Zaheer Sr got one each.

TENNIS

Paradis wins 2nd match in six months

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 3. (Reuters): France's Pascale Paradis won only her second match in six months to reach the third round of the Australian Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championship today.

Paradis, seeded second, overcame Beth Herr of the United States 6-4 6-4 in 90 minutes of centre court action more notable for a succession of service breaks than brilliant play.

Paradis, who ended 1988 ranked 20th in the world, was beaten in the Wimbledon quarterfinals last June by eventual champion Steffi Graf. On her next outing, in the Hopman Cup mixed team tournament in Perth last week, she again lost to the West German world number one.

Practised

"I injured my ankle soon after Wimbledon and started training again only in September. I injured myself again and then got sick, so I haven't practised as much as I wanted," Paradis said.

Three other seeds are eliminated, Americans Terry Phelps and Ann Grossman and South African Ros Fairbank, the number eight seed who was beaten emphatically 6-3 6-1 by 21-year-old West Australian Jenny Byrne.

Wendy Turnbull, at 36 playing probably her last tournament in front of her home crowd, beat American Anna Ivan 6-3 6-3 but was less than impressed at completing the feat on an outside court at a complex she first visited 20 years ago.

"It didn't make a lot of sense. It could have been my last match here and I wouldn't have been happy to play it on an outside court," Turnbull said later.

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West Indies captain Viv Richards had a game of tennis today, a rest day in the World Series Cup. (Reuters wirephoto)

Australian cricket coach rejects call for sackings

MELBOURNE, Jan 3. (Reuters): Australian cricket coach Bob Simpson today rejected calls for wholesale sackings after his side's latest defeat in the World Series Cup one-day tournament.

Simpson said: "These are probably the best players we have in Australia right now so we have to stick by them."

The call by several leading newspapers for changes followed Australia's 38-run defeat by Pakistan in Perth last night — their third in four World Series matches. They also trail West Indies 3-0 in the best-of-five Test series.

"Last night was just a very bad performance and probably the least professional effort for a long, long while," Simpson said.

"We didn't bowl well, we didn't field well and we didn't bat well. But that's gone by now."

Simpson and the other three members of the selection panel — chairman Lawrie Sawle, John Benaud and Jim Higgs — named the 12 chosen for the Perth match plus off-spinner Peter Taylor to meet West Indies in a day-night World Series match in Melbourne on Thursday.

Taylor was unavailable for the Perth game because of a back strain.

Team from: Allan Border (captain), Geoff Marsh, Terry Alderman, David Boon, Ian Healy, Merv Hughes, Dean Jones, Craig McDermott, Simon O'Donnell, Peter Taylor, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Graeme Wood.

tracing time set for stage from competitors' actual times. Set time yesterday was four hours:

1. Patrick Tambay/Dominic Lemoyne (France) Mitsubishi, one hour, 44 minutes and six seconds.
2. Ari Vatanen/B. Berglund (Finland/Sweden) Peugeot 405, four minutes 55 seconds behind.
3. Jacky Ickx/C. Tarin (Belgium) Peugeot 405 6:41 behind
4. K. Shinozuka/H. Magne (Japan/France) Mitsubishi 10:58
5. Patrick Zanardi/Andrie (France) Land Rover 15:55
6. Jean Fontenay/B. Musmar (France) Mitsubishi 27:00
7. Guy Frequelien/Fenouil (France) Peugeot 205 28:44
8. K. Seppi/D. Pelanconi (Italy) Mercedes 54:00
9. G. Colson/A. Lopes (Belgium) Mitsubishi 59:42
10. K. Tijsterman/M. Tijsterman (Netherlands) Mitsubishi 59:43

Provisional overall standings

1. Ickx/Tarin 5:47:14
2. Vatanen/Berglund 4:14 behind
3. Zanardi/Andrie 1:01:04
4. Tambay/Lemoyne 2:04:19
5. Fontenay/Musmar 3:13:18
6. Tijsterman/Tijsterman 3:51:44
7. Shinozuka/Magne 4:01:32
8. Colson/Lopes 4:14:28
9. G. Sarrazin/G. Trouble (France) Toyota 4:39:29
10. M. Prieto/M. Juncosa (Spain) Nissan 4:47:57

Tambay moved up one place to fourth after yesterday's victory.

Ickx had a four-minute advantage over Vatanen as Peugeot sought a third consecutive victory in the rally.

Times were slower than usual on yesterday's stage as dozens of drivers found themselves stuck in the giant dunes, and today's 535-km stage between Termit and Agadez promised more of the same driving conditions.

Provisional results of yesterday's stage (calculated by subtraction of time set for stage from competitors' actual times).

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Notre Dame outclass W. Virginia for title

NEW YORK, Jan 3. (Reuters): Notre Dame completed an unbeaten season and cemented their claim as the best college football team in the country by decisively beating West Virginia 34-21 in the Fiesta Bowl yesterday.

Notre Dame, ranked first in the nation entering the game, rolled to their 12th win of the season behind the brilliant all-round play of quarterback Tony Rice and a spirited, swarming defence.

The West Virginia mountaineers, who came to the Fiesta Bowl at Tempe, Arizona, ranked third, lost for the first time after 11 victories.

The lack of a post-season college football tournament has often left the question of who's number one a matter of debate. A traditional end of season "bowl" games don't always offer a decisive match-up.

Notre Dame, however, left no doubt about their supremacy by despatching West Virginia with ease.

Injured

"I'm very delighted for the players, they played great," coach Lou Holtz said after his Notre Dame team clinched the first consensus national title since 1977.

"We beat the number two number three and number four teams and won 12 games. Who more can you do?" said Holtz.

West Virginia coach Don Nehlen said his star quarterback Major Harris had injured his left shoulder on the third play of the game, but he would not use this as an excuse.

"Notre Dame was a better team than we were," Nehlen said. "They beat us up."

Rice completed seven of 11 passes for a hefty 213 yards and pair of touchdowns including 29-yard scoring strike to six receiver Raghib Ismail. Rice also led the fighting Irish with 7 yards rushing on 15 carries.

Harris, despite the injury, connected on half of his 26 passes for 166 yards and a 17-yard touch down to Grantis Bell.

West Virginia came into the game averaging 42.9 points per game but had not met a team Notre Dame's calibre.

In other major games, eighth-ranked UCLA beat Arkansas 17-3 in the Cotton Bowl behind its throwing of quarterback Troy Aikman.

Aikman, considered the best quarterback coming out of college this year, completed 19 of 27 passes for 172 yards and touchdown. UCLA ended its season 10-2, as did Arkansas, who were ranked ninth going into the game at Dallas.

Michigan, ranked 11th, scored a come-from-behind 22-14 upset victory over fifth-ranked Southern California in the Rose Bowl at Pasadena, California.

Sophomore Leroy Hoar who gained 142 yards on carries, scored twice from 99 yards out in the fourth quarter. Hoar, 9-2-1, to victory. USC finished at 10-2.

Gained

Syracuse, boosted by the signing of Robert Drummmond, beat Louisiana State 23-10 in the Hula Bowl at Tampa, Florida. Drummmond gained 142 yards and scored twice. Syracuse, rated 18th, climbed 10-2. Sixteenth-ranked LSU finished at 8-4.

Clemson's defence carried through at the end to preserve a 13-6 win over 10th-ranked Oklahoma in the Citrus Bowl at Orlando, Florida.

Clemson, ranked 13th, held off a final drive that took Sooners to within 13 yards of touchdown with 12 seconds left. The win gave Clemson a 10 record. Oklahoma, who will be placed on probation for recruiting violations effective at start of next season, finished at 3.

Miami, ranked number two, had hoped a convincing win over sixth-ranked Nebraska in the Orange Bowl coupled with Notre Dame defeat would ensure them to repeat as college champions.

Following Notre Dame's win Miami was playing for pride as the Hurricanes took out their frustration on Nebraska by taking a one-sided 23-3 victory before a home crowd.

"We wanted to go out and show everyone that we have the best football team in the country," said Miami coach Jim Johnson, whose team's only defeat this season was a heartbreaking 31-30 loss to none other than Notre Dame.

Prince thrash Lucky Star and CCK

PRINCE Cricket Club beat two teams this week. In the first match, they thrashed Lucky Star by seven wickets on Friday and in the second game scored a 59-run victory over CCK on Sunday.

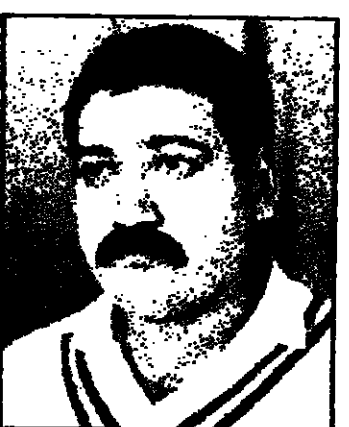
In the first match, Lucky Star batted first and managed to score 115 before they were all out in 22 overs. Arif was the top scorer with 35 while Hameed hit 17, Shams 16 and Shaleel 12.

Support

Mohammed Aslam was the main wicket-taker for Prince. He had all the batsmen in trouble and took three wickets for 19 runs. He was given some good support by Naseem Iqbal, Mohammed Ishfaq and Mohammed Shehzad who captured two wickets each.

In reply, Prince opened their innings through Mujahid and Raza. These two gave their team a relatively good start by putting on 27 runs for the first wicket. Raza was the first to lose his wicket, after scoring 14.

Mujahid kept batting confidently and with Shahbaz put on

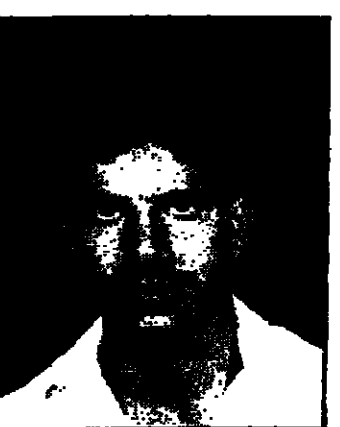


Mujahid: batted well

82 runs for the second wicket. Mujahid was finally out for 52 but by then Prince was very near the victory target.

Prince lost one more wicket as they went past their target but Shahbaz remained unbeaten on 37.

For Lucky Star, Arif took three wickets for 34 runs. The match against CCK was part of the Brud Trophy cricket



Naseem: four for 18

tournament, being organised by the Gulf Cricket League at the GCL ground.

In this match Prince captain Shafiq Ahmed won the toss and opted to make first use of the wicket. Prince opened their innings through Mujahid and Shahbaz.

The opening partnership did not last long. Shahbaz losing his wicket after scoring 16 runs. But